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Heidelberg boys stunned in tournament

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Death news from uniformed man a hoax

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2005

50¢

"Your challenges were unprecedented, and so was the outcome."



Bush thanks U.S. troops during Germany visit

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President Bush and first lady Laura Bush greet U.S. troops and their families Wednesday at Wiesbaden Army Airfield. The crowd consisted of mostly 1st Armored Division soldiers but also included members of the 1st Infantry Division and troops from all services. Bush met earlier with German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder to work out post-Iraq differences.

AP

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Church sexual abuse: A Roman Catholic priest convicted last year of raping three altar boys in Dover, N.H., has died.

The Rev. Joseph Maguire died Wednesday in Berlin, about 10 months after he began serving a 44-year prison term. He was 73.

Corrections spokesman Jeff Lyons said Maguire died of natural causes.

Maguire was convicted on 36 felony counts of abusing boys in the late 1970s and early 1980s at St. Joseph parish in Dover. He acknowledged abusing boys in Dover hotel rooms, during overnight trips and at St. Joseph's rectory.

Jackson jury selection: Attorneys in the Michael Jackson case made headway in selecting a jury, dismissing a self-styled "karaoke junkie" and two women with ties to law enforcement.

Both sides are allowed to reject 10 jurors each without explanation. The defense cut six and the prosecution five Tuesday in Santa Maria, Calif.

Along with three jurors who were removed by mutual agreement and six jurors the judge dismissed at their requests, 20 prospective panelists were gone by the end of the day. If attorneys maintain their current pace, a jury could be seated within days.

Eric Rudolph trial: Eric Rudolph's lawyers have an explanation for his nearly 5 1/2 years on the lam after an Alabama abortion clinic bombing: His western North Carolina culture.

The defense wants to allow the testimony of a professor who contends Rudolph's flight was consistent with spending much of his life in a mountain culture that promotes an independent spirit and a strong suspicion of government.

Prosecutors in Birmingham, Ala., oppose such testimony, arguing it lacks any scientific basis.

World

Bangladesh ferry: Hundreds of desperate people used small boats to search for missing loved ones on Tuesday, three days after a ferry sank in a river near Bangladesh's capital, Dhaka, leaving at least 151 people dead.

The double-decker MV Maharaj was packed with more than 200 people when it capsized during a storm just before midnight Saturday on the Buriganga River.

The vessel was about 30 minutes into its journey from Dhaka to the eastern town of Chandpur when wind gusts struck. It capsized and sank near Pagla town. Many of the passengers were heading home ahead of a political holiday.

Serbia-Kosovo relations: The European Union on Monday urged authorities in Serbia and the U.N.-administered Serbian province of Kosovo to resume contacts aimed at improving relations ahead of expected negotiations later this year on the province's future.

"Without dialogue ... it will be very diffi-



Pope's health: Pope John Paul II on Wednesday gave his longest public appearance since leaving the hospital, greeting pilgrims by video hookup after the Vatican canceled his address from his apartment window when rain and winds lashed Rome. The frail pontiff, conversing from a recent illness, appeared somewhat gaunt and wheezed as he spoke but read the greetings in six languages as he sat in his studio flanked by two aides.

cult" to hold successful talks, said Javier Solana, the EU's foreign policy representative. He spoke after EU foreign ministers held talks on Kosovo.

The EU ministers met with Soeren Jespersen-Petersen, who heads the U.N. administration there.

Bobby Fischer passport: Icelandic immigration authorities agreed Tuesday to grant the former American chess champion Bobby Fischer a special passport for foreigners that would allow him to travel to Western Europe, officials said.

The document would allow him to travel freely between the 15 Western European countries of the Schengen zone, a region covering much of western Europe where passports are not required, but not to the United States, said Gudrun Ogmundsdottir, a member of Iceland's Parliament General Committee.

Maldives tsunami reaction: Asia's tsunami has given new life to a plan in low-lying Maldives to relocate much of the population to higher ground, while Indonesia said Wednesday it was considering building "escape hills" along its exposed coastline to be used in case another massive wave hits.

The Maldives government wants to house its population on islands with higher elevation and two- and three-story buildings that would allow people to escape another tsunami.

Czech invasion compensation: The lower chamber of the Czech parliament voted on Wednesday to compensate victims of the 1968 Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia. Of the 160 lawmakers present in the 200-seat chamber on Wednesday, 123 voted in favor, one was against.

Under the law, which still needs approval

by the upper chamber of the parliament, the Senate, those who were injured or raped by a member of one of the five occupying armies between Aug. 20, 1968, and June 27, 1991, or family members of those killed in the same period of time, will be entitled to up to \$6,637.

Afghan aid worker deaths: Gunmen stopped a car carrying two Afghan aid workers in the country's south before shooting them in the head, a senior official said Wednesday, a brutal slaying sure to set back the rebuilding of the war-stricken country.

Health Minister Mohammed Amin Fateni told The Associated Press that the sports-utility vehicle used by the two employees of medical relief group Ibn Sina had disappeared but said it was unclear whether militants or robbers carried out the attack.

Fateni said the two aid workers were forced from the vehicle in a desert area of Helmand's Sangin district, 220 miles southwest of Kabul, on their way to deliver medical supplies to several clinics in the province.

South Africa economy: South African Finance Minister Trevor Manuel on Wednesday announced a package of tax cuts and social spending aimed at giving South Africa's impoverished millions a bigger slice of the economic cake a decade after the end of apartheid.

Economic growth has averaged 3.2 percent a year over the past four years, slightly less than the African average of 4 percent, Manuel said.

He predicted the rate would increase to 4.3 percent this year and average 4.2 percent over the next three, taking into account the anticipated global slowdown and continued relative strength of the rand.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

Correction

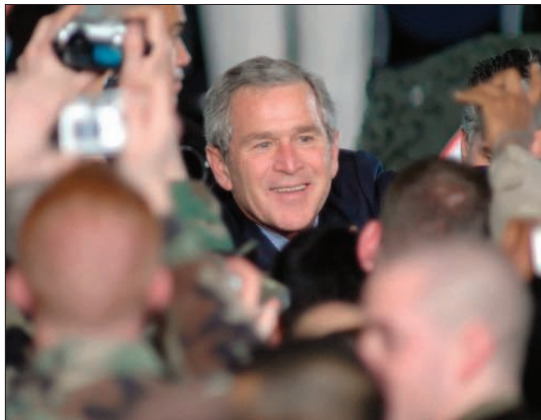
A story in Thursday's editions on child-care concerns contained a wrong number for the Marine Corps. In order to get to a DOD-mandated 80 percent level for child care, the Corps will need at least another 2,400 spaces.

Clarification

A story in Wednesday's editions about Laura Bush's visit to students in Wiesbaden should have said the first lady also visited pupils at Hainerberg Elementary School. Bush's visit to the elementary school was not open to the press.

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PHOTOS BY RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes

Left: President Bush shakes hands with soldiers after a speech to U.S. servicemembers Wednesday at Wiesbaden Army Airfield, Germany. **Above:** Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice poses for a photo with troops. Bush and Rice stopped in Wiesbaden as part of their European trip, during which the president is hoping to solidify ties with Western leaders, some of which were weakened by the U.S. invasion of Iraq.

'America stands with you'

Bush visits Wiesbaden to thank, encourage battle-tested troops

BY JESSICA INIGO
Stars and Stripes

WIESBADEN, Germany — President Bush praised thousands of troops and their families during a Wednesday afternoon pit stop at the Wiesbaden Army Airfield during his three-country European tour.

Before heading off to the Slovak Republic, the president and other White House officials stopped to thank war-weary troops and give them a bit of entertainment for a job well done.

"Laura and I were in the neighborhood, though we'd drop by and say hello — howdy," said the military's commander in chief to cheering troops and family members. Bush had spent most of the day meeting with German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder in Mainz.

Just before Bush's arrival, the Frankfurt Galaxy cheerleaders performed and "American Idol" runner-up Diana DeGarmo and the Gatlin Brothers sang.

Bush said he wanted to give the troops a taste of home after their yearlong deployment to Iraq.

"Today I bring you a message from back home: The American people are grateful to you. Your communities are proud of you. And as you defend the cause of freedom, America stands with you."

The crowd, made up mostly of 1st Armored Division soldiers but including select 1st Infantry Division soldiers, as well as troops from all services, were all key players in helping America fight the war on terror, Bush said.

"The 3,000 soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines and their family members here today represent the more than 100,000 men and women of the United States European Command forward deployed and active in the global war on terrorism both in Iraq and Afghanistan. They're also great Americans and willful ambassadors for the United States who work hard every day to enhance our relationship with our European allies," said Maj. Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, 1st AD commander, just before the president spoke.



After spending most of the day meeting with German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, President Bush, joined by White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, took time to meet with troops in Wiesbaden. "You have made a critical contribution to the history of liberty," President Bush told a crowd comprised mostly of 1st Armored Division soldiers but also including troops from all branches of the military.

Though this was the second time Bush visited 1st AD troops, reminding soldiers that he was the "guy serving turkey" at 2003's surprise visit to Baghdad on Thanksgiving Day, he made it clear that the services made up one team.

Petty Officer 1st Class Zolt Vecsernyes, an ordnanceman who was stationed on the USS Kitty Hawk off of Iraq and Afghanistan, said the president hit the nail on the head.

"I'm impressed how he recognized every troop who contributed to the fight," Vecsernyes said. "I believe everything he believes in. He has to be one of the best presidents, coming right behind Reagan."

Bush noted how each unit made up an important piece of the overall mission in Iraq and Afghanistan and how that's changing the world.

"The sacrifices you have made will

"He kind of gave me motivation to go back downrange again."

Spc. Chen Sheng
Combat engineer,
16th Engineers,
Giessen, Germany

**For more coverage
of Bush's visit, go to
www.stripes.com**

change the world for decades to come. By fighting terrorists in places like Baghdad and Karbala and Tikrit, you are making sure we do not face those enemies at home. By helping captive peoples gain their freedom, you have made a critical contribution to the history of liberty. And that means the world will be more peaceful, and our children and grandchildren will be more secure," Bush said, as the crowd burst into applause.

"Your challenges were unprecedented, and so was the outcome."

The president's passionate speech served to inspire some soldiers.

"He kind of gave me motivation to go back downrange again," said Spc. Chen Sheng, a combat engineer with the 16th Engineers out of Giessen, Germany. Ending his 30-minute speech with the same gratitude White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice began their speeches with, the presidential party left the troops as the sounds of the 1st AD band kicked up.

"It can't get any better than this," said a smiling 1st Sgt. Garnett Brown of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Division Support Command. "It's the boost that every soldier needs."

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Bush: Ties with Germany key to Europe relations

Also says visit is 'important' stop

BY KEVIN DOUGHERTY
Stars and Stripes

MAINZ, Germany — He called Germany "a great nation," characterized the country as beautiful, and said it was the key to maintaining good relations with the rest of Europe.

Sixteen years after his father paid Mainz a visit, President Bush came to town Wednesday to meet with German leaders to discuss issues and message ego strained by the war in Iraq. The trip to Germany, which included a stop in nearby Wiesbaden to meet with 1st Armored Division troops, is part of a five-day swing through Europe.

"This is an important trip for me," Bush said at a news conference with German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder, "and one of the most important stops of all is here in Germany."

Bush arrived in Germany on

Wednesday morning after spending the night in Brussels, Belgium, where he met Tuesday with NATO and European Union leaders. On Thursday, Bush meets with Russian President Vladimir Putin in the Slovak Republic.

German authorities, in consultation with U.S. officials, closed many roads to allow the president's motorcade to breeze into this city on the Rhine River.

A recent AP-Ipsos poll showed overwhelming German skepticism of Bush — about four in five Germans say they don't agree with the president's determination to promote democracy around the world.

While thousands of protesters came to Mainz to demonstrate against Bush, the president and his entourage steered clear of the rallies. One White House journalist traveling with the president was surprised by the absence of



President Bush pauses Wednesday as he speaks to U.S. troops at Wiesbaden Army Airfield, Germany.

locals in the immediate vicinity.

In the days leading up to Bush's visit, German citizens living in the region were told to avoid Mainz and Wiesbaden, if possible. Many area residents skipped work Wednesday and some schools closed. Three hours before Air Force One landed at Rhein-Main Air Base, several

teenage students called into a German radio station to thank the president for the day off.

At the news conference, Bush and Schröder insisted that Iran not develop nuclear weapons, and they discussed tactics on how to coax Tehran into compliance.

"It's vital that the Iranians hear the world speak with one voice

that they should not have a nuclear weapon," Bush said. "Iran must not have a nuclear weapon, for the sake of security ..."

The two leaders remain far apart on how to make Iran give up any plans to build such an arsenal, although both said they agreed the end result must be a

SEE BUSH ON PAGE 5

Thousands of demonstrators jeer U.S. policies

BY RUSS RIZZO
Stars and Stripes

MAINZ, Germany — Thousands of people who gathered Wednesday to protest President Bush as he visited with German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder had a few choice words for the president.

Under a light snow, protesters packed a square on Kaiserstrasse in the heart of the government district to object to Bush's foreign policy. They carried signs and made speeches lambasting the administration on a wide array of issues, from the Iraq war and prisoner treatment at the U.S. detention facility in Guantanamo Bay,

Cuba, to the U.S. refusal to sign the Kyoto Protocol on climate change.

"He thinks he is the leader of the world and wants to push his interests and his desires on the whole world," said Helmut Gross, 49, as he stood holding a rainbow-colored flag that read "Peace."

Similar flags hung from the dome of the Christus church on the square.

Bush's first visit to Germany since his re-election gave Gross a rare chance to make public his objections to an "illegal war" in Iraq. Gross said: "He drove 300 miles from Bad Tölz to attend the event."



CHARLIE COON/Stars and Stripes

Protesters gather Tuesday around a sign that reads "The Axis of Shame leads through Stuttgart" during a demonstration outside the U.S. European Command headquarters in Stuttgart, Germany.

Some Americans who live in Germany joined the demonstration, which local police say was organized by the Berlin-based Achse des Friedens, which translates to "Axis of Peace."

David Carson, a San Antonio native living in Hanau, told the crowd he was ashamed to be a Texan because of what Bush's home state has come to represent in the world.

The crowd reacted with cheers and whistles to another speaker who blamed Bush for the deaths of thousands of innocent people in Iraq and other countries.

Wearing a white T-shirt with "Hands off Iran" written in red letters, Farah Waziri listened from the back of the square. Waziri, an Iranian who lives in Marburg, said she was concerned with increased military presence in the Middle East.



PETER JAEGER/Stars and Stripes

A protester expresses her thoughts about President Bush during a demonstration Wednesday in Mainz, Germany.

"Democracy with war is a lie," Waziri said.

After the event, protesters filed out of the square and began a march around parts of the government district not shut off by steel gates and police in green uniforms.

About 7,000 to 10,000 protesters turned out for the event, according to German police on the scene.

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Activists protest outside of EUCOM's gate

BY CHARLIE COON
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — About 40 people protested Tuesday night outside the gate to the U.S. European Command headquarters, calling for an end to the "war politics" of the Bush administration.

The demonstrators were kept behind fences and away from the gate so motorists could drive unimpeded in and out of Patch Barracks. About 40 German police officers were on hand to deter violence, which has occurred in past protests at Patch.

U.S. authorities would not say how many security troops it had stationed inside the security gate and barbed-wire-topped fences.

"We have enough," said Art Richard, deputy provost marshal for the 6th Area Support Group.

The protesters stood in the snow, holding signs and blowing whistles and noisemakers. Several who gave speeches contended that the United

States blew a chance for post-Cold War peace by employing hawkish policies and tactics.

"It's our chance now to develop civil policies," said Heike Hensel of Tübingen. "There are a lot of menaces in the world and a lot of differences, but [President Bush] has no classic foreign policy; everything is now 'security policy.'"

Two U.S. military police officers guarding the gate declined to comment on the protest.

"They [protest] in the U.S. all the time," said Richard, who was in charge of the MPs. "Why should it bother me here?"

The event was one of several dozen throughout Germany to coincide with Bush's visit.

In past protests at Patch, German police clubbed protesters who crossed over the fences and dragged away ones who staged sit-ins. But Tuesday's 90-minute event remained peaceful. "No violence, no sit-down," Richard said. "That's good."

E-mail Charlie Coon at: coon@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Behind the scenes of a presidential visit

Wiesbaden prepares community for Bush's arrival

BY BEN MURRAY

Stars and Stripes

WIESBADEN, Germany — Note to military families on European bases hosting the president of the United States: Buy extra milk.

Stocking up on supplies before President Bush's visit was one of the little things troops at Wiesbaden Army Airfield said they had to do as security around the base tightened over the past two weeks, said Jena Mullican, a military spouse who lives near the airfield.

Streets were blocked and some regular services were shut down Wednesday in the city, where rings of security had isolated the military airfield for 12 hours before the president arrived.

No crowds of flag-waving admirers were on hand to greet him. For security reasons, residents were asked to restrict their movements Wednesday. Wiesbaden's streets were devoid of everyone but military police and soldiers who went about their business in golf carts because cars were banned.

But the strict security couldn't contain troops' excitement as they waited at the airfield for Bush and his entourage, including the first lady and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

"I'm excited about seeing Condoleezza Rice," said Spc. Katrina Hunter from the 501st Military Intelligence Battalion. "She's my president. If I could shake her hand, I'd probably pass out."

Both Hunter and Mullican said they hadn't slept well Tuesday night in anticipation of seeing the president.

"I got excited. I couldn't sleep... I'm a housewife," Mullican said. "Everybody's just ecstatic that the president's coming. Of all the places he could pick..."

The mood was even enough to take the edge off of a lonely guard duty on the base's central parade field, said Pfc. Jason Epstein of the 501st Military Police Company. Epstein was standing in the snow within earshot of a Frankfurt Galaxy cheerleader troupe performing a dance routine in a large tent on the base's softball field. But Epstein said he wasn't disappointed about missing all the action.

"It's a great honor to be out here pulling guard duty for the president," Epstein said.



BEN MURRAY/Stars and Stripes

Pfc. Jason Epstein of Wiesbaden's 501st Military Police Company shows the other side of a presidential visit — extra guard duty at points all around the base. But Epstein had it better than some: members of the German police were seen on autobahns near the base Wednesday, performing lonely foot patrols along highways leading into the facility.

Others said they put in extra hours or were asked to change duties completely to help out at the event.

Hunter, who normally manages the battalion's supplies, was working as a media liaison Wednesday.

Others were worried about sim-

pler problems than protecting a president.

"What would you wear to meet the president?" said Lisa Brown, a military spouse wearing an all-black ensemble Wednesday. "Very conservative clothing — cover everything," she said.

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Bush: Leaders discuss world issues

BUSH, FROM PAGE 4

nuclear arms-free Iran. Schroeder played down the differences between the United States and Europe.

"We absolutely agree that Iran must say no to any kind of nuclear weapons," Schroeder said. "Iran must not have any nuclear weapons. They must waive any right to the production thereof."

Schroeder wants Bush to more actively engage in talks led by Germany, France and Britain that offer incentives to Tehran, such as membership in the World Trade Organization, in return for dropping its uranium enrichment program.

"There needs to be movement on both sides," Schröder said. Bush, in contrast, backs the European diplomacy but frowns on the idea of rewarding Iran for breaking the nonproliferation treaty that prohibits it from making nuclear fuel or for sponsoring terrorist groups in Iraq such as Hezbollah.

"We will work with them to convince the mullahs that they need to give up their nuclear ambitions," Bush said of the Europeans.

But he added: "The reason we're having these discussions is because they were caught enriching uranium after they had signed a treaty saying they wouldn't enrich uranium... They're the party that needs to be held to account, not any of us."

Other issues raised during the news conference ranged from Iraq



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

President Bush and German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder pass a military review Wednesday in the courtyard of the Mainz Schloss at the beginning of the president's visit to Germany.

and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to NATO reform and the Kyoto Protocol on climate change, which the administration rejected during the president's first term. The two countries later released a joint statement on the environment in which they pledged greater cooperation in the area of energy efficiency and new technologies.

As he has at other stops on his European tour, the president spoke of the need to put past differences over Iraq behind them and focus on the future. Bush thanked Germany for its "vital" contributions in Iraq. Germany and NATO allies agreed earlier this week to help train security forces in Iraq. Germany's contributions "are not limited," Bush said. "They are important."

The president seemed especially buoyant when he left a 17th-century castle with Schroeder earlier in the day for a review of German armed forces. Heavy snowflakes were falling and various German dignitaries were lined up to greet the U.S. president.

"Your name please?" Bush said with a smile as he approached Joschka Fischer, the German foreign minister.

Fischer played along, prompting Bush to identify himself, too.

"In order for us to have good relations with Europe," Bush said later, "we need to have good relations with Germany."

The Associated Press contributed to this report.
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Report: VA assets inadequate to help vets

By LEO SHANE III
Stars and Stripes

Officials deny findings on post-traumatic stress disorder, cite numbers of treated

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs does not have the resources to handle the expected posttraumatic stress disorder cases from Iraq and Afghanistan, according to a Government Accountability Office report.

VA officials quickly dismissed the findings, noting that so far they have treated more than 6,400 veterans for those mental health issues, and more than 244,000 veterans in the agency's history.

But health experts said if the report is right, thousands of current soldiers could find themselves

with no way to deal with serious emotional and psychological problems in the near future.

"We have given a lot of attention to the physical side of recovery, but very little to the emotional fallout these soldiers might face," said Dr. Mark Lerner, president of the American Academy of Experts in Traumatic Stress. "We have to increase awareness, because this could take months or years to show up."

A 2004 study by defense offi-

cials of Army and Marine troops in Iraq indicated that between 15 percent and 17 percent of those servicemembers showed signs of depression, anxiety or PTSD-related problems.

The GAO report notes that as of September 2004, officials at six of seven medical centers surveyed said they likely could not handle an increased demand in PTSD services, and fewer than half of patients treated last year were screened for PTSD-related issues.

It also called the agency's estimation of its PTSD resources "error-prone and inadequately supported" and said the department doesn't have the capacity to handle the current numbers of veterans with such problems.

VA spokeswoman Karen Fedele said the report ignores current data and changes made within the department.

"We welcome any evaluation of our programs; we ask only that accuracy guide the process," she said.

Veterans Affairs officials estimate that about 2,700 retired servicemembers were treated for PTSD and related problems in 2004 alone.

New Defense Department guidelines mandate psychological counseling for soldiers immediately before and after deployment to a combat zone, and a third counseling session three to five months after deployment. These evaluations will be handled by DOD, however.

Officials said the goal is to better identify mental health issues, some of which can take months or years to manifest.

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Camp Casey GI baffled by letters from sixth-graders

Stars and Stripes

A New York City school official, red-faced over Brooklyn sixth-graders who slammed a GI with anti-Iraq-war letters, said Tuesday they are sending the 20-year-old private a letter of apology.

Deputy Schools Chancellor Carmen Fariña plans to personally contact Pfc. Rob Jacobs and his family, a spokeswoman told the New York Post.

Teacher Alex Kunhardt had his students write Jacobs as part of a social studies assignment.

He declined to comment on whether he read the rants before passing them along, but said he planned to contact Jacobs soon to explain.

In an accompanying letter to Jacobs, Kunhardt said the students "come from a variety of backgrounds and political beliefs, but unanimously support the bravery

and sacrifice of American soldiers around the world."

"Support" was not the word that came to Jacobs' mind when he read the letters, the Post noted.

One girl wrote that she believes Jacobs is "being forced to kill innocent people" and challenged him to name an Iraqi terrorist, concluding, "I know I can't."

Uplifting letters from children are dear to soldiers, Jacobs said. He looks at a batch

he got from a Girl Scout troop from his hometown of Middletown, N.J., whenever he feels lonely.

Jacobs said he would welcome a letter from the Department of Education and the teacher.

"I want to think these letters were coached by the teacher or the parents of these children," Jacobs told the Post from Camp Casey, South Korea. "It boggles my mind that children could think this stuff."

There really is no place like home!



PHOTOS BY LARRY REILLY/Courtesy of U.S. Army

Above: Family and friends of soldiers from the 701st Main Support Battalion and Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Infantry Division Support Command welcome home soldiers from Iraq on Tuesday during a reception at Harvey Barracks in Kitzingen, Germany. Right: James Stephens gets a welcome home kiss from his wife, Faith, and a pat on the head from his daughter, Hope. More than 140 1st Infantry Division soldiers returned to Kitzingen on Tuesday.



Longtime DODDS teacher dies

Mary Harriette Coughlin, a teacher for 36 years at Department of Defense Dependents Schools in Europe and Asia, died unexpectedly Tuesday in Adana, Turkey. She was 61. The cause of death is unknown, according to a news release from DODDS-Europe.

Coughlin taught at Würzburg, Germany, and at Clark Air Force Base, Philippines, and in Japan from 1968 until 1991. She taught information and media at Mons, Belgium, from 1991 until 1996 and had taught the same subjects ever since at Incirlik High School, Turkey.

The school plans to establish a memorial fund to purchase books in her name. For more information, call San-

dra J. DiQuinzio or Susan Ransom at (+90) 322-332-7630 or DSN 314-676-6330.

A funeral is being planned in Savoy, Ill., at Morgan's Funeral Home. Flowers, cards and donations for a memorial fund or favorite charity should be sent to Patricia Miller, 9191 Tarleton Circle, Brooksville, Fla. 34613.

USS Bonhomme Richard halts pirates

The amphibious assault ship USS Bonhomme Richard recently chased away two boatloads of pirates attacking a group of Kuwaiti fishermen in the northern Persian Gulf.

The San Diego-based Bonhomme Richard received a bridge-to-bridge radio call from one of the fishing boats

under attack, and the 44,000-ton warship turned and sped toward the scene, according to a U.S. Navy Central Command news release.

When the Bonhomme Richard arrived, the pirates fled in their two Boston whaler speedboats. "With 44,000 tons of combat power chasing after them, they got out of there in a hurry," said Bonhomme Richard's commander, Capt. J. Scott Jones.

The Bonhomme Richard recently delivered humanitarian supplies to Indonesian tsunami survivors and is currently providing protection for Iraqi oil terminals. The ship also is a base for maritime-interdiction operations against vessels suspected of supporting terrorists.

From staff reports

Fight for leadership shaping up in Iraq

Allawi unveils new coalition to challenge al-Jaafari for prime minister

BY MAGGIE MICHAEL

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi said Wednesday he was forming a broad coalition to fight for the post of prime minister after Iraq's dominant Shiite political party nominated a conservative candidate.

The haggling over the new government came against the backdrop of more violence. A car bomb killed two people and wounded 14 in the northern city of Mosul, and a U.S. soldier was killed in a separate bomb attack north of Baghdad, officials said.

Allawi, a secular Shiite, skirted criticism of Ibrahim al-Jaafari, who was nominated Tuesday by the United Iraqi Alliance as its candidate for prime minister. The decision made al-Jaafari the overwhelming favorite for the post.

When asked if he feared that al-Jaafari's alliance could impose Islamic rule, Allawi responded that he opposed the creation of any form of Islamic government.

"We are liberal powers and we believe in a liberal Iraq and not an Iraq governed by political Islamists," Allawi said. "But as a person, he is an honorable man, fighter and a good brother."

Allawi would not provide details of his proposed coalition.

Kurdish parties have also weighed in with their own de-



Iraq Interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi greets supporters Wednesday at party headquarters in Baghdad.

mands for top jobs, including the post of president.

In order to take the premiership, al-Jaafari must build a coalition to gain agreement from Kurds and others on the presidency and candidates for Cabinet posts before seeking the support of a majority of the National Assembly elected Jan. 30.

Al-Jaafari is "a man I can work with, but to discuss who will be the prime minister of Iraq, this

still needs more time," Kurdish interim vice president Rowsh Nouri Shawwas told reporters.

Kurdish parties, which won 75 seats in the 275-seat national assembly, want Jalal Talabani, a secular Sunni Kurd and leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, to be Iraq's next president.

The Shiite Muslim clergy-backed United Iraqi Alliance won 140 seats, while Allawi's secular Shiite Iraqi List party won 40 seats. Nine other parties divided the remaining 20 seats.

According to the interim constitution adopted last year under the U.S. occupation, parliament must elect a president and two vice presidents by a two-thirds

majority, or 182 seats. The three must then unanimously choose a prime minister subject to assembly approval.

There is no timetable for the assembly to convene, and al-Jaafari and his alliance must agree with other elected parties on who will fill the three posts and the Cabinet. Even then, the prime minister has a month to name his Cabinet before the assembly votes.

For al-Jaafari, 58, to succeed, he'll have to meet conflicting demands from Kurds, Sunni Arabs and even Islamic hard-liners within his alliance. Iraq's secular Kurds and many Sunnis worry that al-Jaafari will try to impose his Dawa Party's brand of conservative Islam on the country.

Al-Jaafari told the AP last week that Islam should be the official religion of Iraq "and one of the main sources for legislation, along with other sources that do not harm Muslim sensibilities."

He skirted his party's official position, which explicitly urges the "Islamization" of Iraqi society and the state, including the implementation of Islamic law.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Tuesday, at least 1,484 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,126 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department.

The figures include four military civilians.

The AP count is eight higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated Tuesday.

The British military has reported 86 deaths. Italy has reported 20 deaths; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 16; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each. Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Latvia and Kazakhstan have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,346 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 1,017 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ A Marine was killed Monday while conducting operations in Iraq's Anbar province.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Marine Cpl. John T. Olson, 21, Elk Grove Village, Ill.; killed Monday in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to Headquarters Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

■ Marine Cpl. Kevin M. Clarke, 21, Tinley Park, Ill.; killed Saturday in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

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British soldiers found guilty of abusing Iraqis

The Associated Press

OSNABRUECK, Germany — A military jury convicted two British servicemen Wednesday on charges of involvement in abusing Iraqi civilians.

The panel of seven senior officers found Lance Cpl. Mark Cooley, 25, and Cpl. Daniel Kenyon, 33, guilty after a trial at a British base in Germany.

A third defendant, also from the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, had already pleaded guilty. He awaits sentencing, set for Friday, along with Kenyon and Cooley.

Kenyon was convicted of aiding and abetting the abuse and failing to report it, and faces up to two years in prison.

Cooley was convicted of simulating punching a detainee, an action that was shown in a photograph, and of tying up a detainee and hoisting him on a fork lift. He also faces up to two years in prison.

Both men stared straight ahead as the verdict was read by the jury foreman, Brigadier John Devereux.

The charges relate to the abuse of Iraqi civilians suspected of looting a humanitarian aid warehouse outside Basra in May 2003. The third defendant, Lance Cpl. Darren Larkin, 30, already has pleaded guilty to one count of battery, acknowledging he was the man shown in a photo standing with both feet on a tied-up Iraqi lying on the ground.

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AP/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Capt. Jim Gruber, left, of the 76th Infantry Brigade deployed to Afghanistan examines Qudratullah Gul during a routine humanitarian visit to a refugee camp at Pol-e-Charhki near Kabul. Gruber was the first Army doctor to diagnose Qudratullah with a congenital heart disease that would have ultimately taken his life. The boy is to receive medical treatment for his heart condition at Riley Hospital in Indianapolis in early March. Below: Qudratullah gives a small smile for the camera.

U.S. military to fly Afghan infant for live-saving surgery

BY STEPHEN GRAHAM

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — A 14-month-old Afghan boy with a serious heart defect began a potentially lifesaving journey to the United States on Wednesday for surgery at an Indiana hospital.

The U.S. military is flying Qudratullah, his impoverished father and a translator to Indianapolis for treatment unavailable in Afghanistan.

Medics from the Indiana National Guard discovered the boy in September in a camp for returning refugees in the Afghan capital, Kabul, and diagnosed him with a congenital heart condition called tetralogy of fallot, or TOF.

U.S. soldiers collected the boy and his father from the muddy camp on Wednesday and brought him to a nearby American base for a check-up. He was to travel to Bagram Air Field, north of the city, on Wednesday afternoon for a flight to Indianapolis via Germany.

"We are very excited that they are taking our child for treatment without charge," said father Hakim Gul, smiling in front of his family's tent as more than a 100 neighbors waited to see them off. He kept them informed of Qudratullah's progress.

Volunteer surgeons are to perform the open-heart operation at Riley Children's Hospital in Indianapolis, which has offered to fund the \$50,000 surgery through donations, military officials said. The Rotary Club organization is covering other costs.

Like many thousands of Afghans, the boy's parents returned



to Kabul from Pakistan after the fall of the Taliban in 2001 but have found shelter only in squalid camps or bombed-out buildings left over from the country's long wars.

Gul, a 31-year-old native of Kunduz, said he had brought his wife and only child back six months ago from the Pakistani city of Peshawar, where doctors diagnosed the problem but said the treatment was expensive.

The boy's faulty heart reduces the flow of blood to the lungs and restricts the supply of oxygen to the rest of the body. It causes stunted growth and loss of brain function and eventually becomes fatal without correction.

The three Afghans are to stay at The Ronald McDonald House on the campus of Indiana University-Purdue University.

Capt. Mike Roscoe, a medic at Camp Phoenix, which houses U.S. soldiers training Afghanistan's army, said the surgery was risky but was Qudratullah's only hope.

"He does have a good chance of living a normal lifespan, which is something that is not even a remote possibility without the surgery," Roscoe said.

Man in uniform falsely tells Army wife her husband died

BY RUSS BYNUM

The Associated Press

SAVANNAH, Ga. — Military police are investigating a cruel hoax in which a man wearing a U.S. Army dress uniform falsely told the wife of a soldier that her husband had been killed in Iraq.

Investigators are trying to determine why the man delivered the false death notice and whether he was a soldier or a civilian wearing a military uniform.

"We're taking it extremely seriously. Whatever motivation was behind it, it was a sick thing to do," said Fort Stewart spokesman Lt. Col. Robert Whetstone.

Last month, 19,000 soldiers from the Fort Stewart-based 3rd Infantry Division deployed for their second tour of duty in Iraq.

At least eight division soldiers have been killed since then.

Fort Stewart officials would not identify the Army wife who reported to military police that a man posing as a casualty assistance officer came to her door Feb. 10.

"Right off the bat, she noticed some things were not right," Whetstone said. "The individual's uniform wasn't correct — there were no markings or name tags. Plus, the person was alone, and she knew one person does not make [death] notifications."

Whetstone said no similar hoaxes have been reported.

What to watch for

The Army has guidelines for casualty notification officers to follow when informing family members about the death of a loved one:

■ The notification officers must be of a rank equal to or higher than the soldier killed.

■ They will inform the next of kin in person in full dress uniform. Death notices are never given over the phone.

■ They must identify themselves by name, rank, unit and home base upon meeting the next of kin.

■ They must not physically touch the next of kin, unless there is shock or fainting.

■ Officers are told not to extend "overly sympathetic gestures" or "gory or embarrassing details."

■ Issues of benefits, pay, investigations into the death or mortuary affairs are not to be discussed.

■ Officers are required to confirm the next of kin's telephone number and address, so information on benefits and letters of condolence can be sent to the correct location.

■ The Army also requires a casualty assistance officer to contact the next of kin within 24 hours of the notification officer's visit.

Source: U.S. Army Personnel Command

When the 3rd ID first deployed to Iraq for the 2003 invasion, some Fort Stewart families reported receiving phone calls from pranksters saying their soldiers had been killed.

This time around, troops and their spouses got predeployment briefings that included detailed explanations of how death notices work.

Fort Stewart spouses have been spreading news of the latest hoax, said Army wife Michelle Dombrowski, who received an e-mail more than a week ago reporting the incident.

"I can't believe that someone

would do that," said Dombrowski, whose husband, Staff Sgt. Joe Dombrowski, is deployed with the 3rd Infantry. "I know the protocol, though."

Military police described the suspected hoax as being 6-feet, 1-inch tall and about 180 pounds with black or brown hair and a pale complexion. He was reported to be driving a blue or green pickup truck with chrome wheels, oversized tires and a Georgia license plate.

Two soldiers, including a chaplain, in dress uniform always arrive to tell the family in person. The Army never makes notifications over the telephone.

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IN THE STATES

As rain falls, damage rises in California

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES—Still more rain soaked Southern California on Wednesday, giving Los Angeles its wettest year in more than a century, after collapsing hill-sides crushed homes, oozing mud blocked highways and a surging river carried away part of an airport.

The deaths of nine people had been blamed on the series of storms that started last week, including one man who was killed by a falling eucalyptus tree and a teenage girl crushed by rocks that crashed into her bedroom.

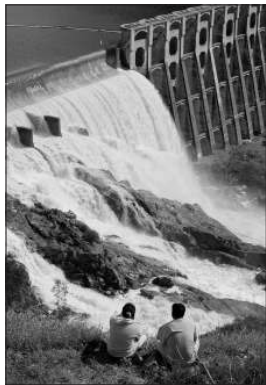
While more rain fell overnight, the region was due for a break as the wet weather was moving eastward, the National Weather Service said. To the east, two days or more of rain was forecast in already wet Arizona.

The average yearly rainfall in downtown Los Angeles is about 15 inches, but the total just since last Thursday reached 9.14 inches as of Wednesday morning.

The city's amount in the nearly eight months since July 1, when California begins its yearly rainfall measurements, reached 34.36 inches—more than the annual average for Seattle. That's also the city's third wettest year on record and within easy sight of the No. 2 year, 1889-90, when 34.94 inches of rain fell. The record for the entire year is 38.18 inches, set in 1883-84.

All that rain translated to as much as 10 feet of snow atop Mount Baldy, elevation 8,600 feet, in the San Bernardino Mountains northeast of Los Angeles.

A stretch of about 2 miles of the Pacific Coast Highway leading into Malibu remained closed Wednesday because of mudslides and a huge boulder



SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE/AP

Christina Resendez, left, and friend Arumulo Gescio watch Tuesday as Lake Hodges in Escondido, Calif., overflows its dam.

der that threatened to roll onto the highway. Dozens of other roads in the region also were closed.

Storms have caused \$5.25 billion in damage to Los Angeles County roads and facilities since the beginning of this year. The county has spent \$9 million on repairs, including \$500,000 since the weekend, officials said.

Authorities said dozens of homes were evacuated or red-tagged—marked as uninhabitable—because they threatened to collapse from sliding hill-sides. Others already had collapsed or lost backyard patios and swimming pools.

Los Angeles Mayor James Hahn has asked Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to urge President Bush to issue a federal disaster declaration for the city.

Friend: Charges against man for Bush plot don't fit

BY MATTHEW BARAKAT
The Associated Press

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Family and friends who packed a Virginia courtroom to support Ahmed Omar Ali Ali laughed out loud when prosecutors alleged that he had plotted to assassinate President Bush.

Abu Ali, 23, a U.S. citizen who grew up in Falls Church, was charged Tuesday with conspiring with al-Qaida to kill the president in a plan that prosecutors said was hatched while the man studied in Saudi Arabia in 2002 and 2003.

Those who know Abu Ali said the accusation simply does not jibe with the mild-mannered boy they knew through his active role in northern Virginia's Muslim community.

"Three words describe him: calm, quiet, peaceful," said Jamal Abdulmuty, who knows the Abu Ali family. "He was very wise, very mature for his age. ... We cannot imagine" that he would be involved in an assassination plot.

Abu Ali had been detained for nearly two years by the Saudi Arabian government. His family sued the U.S. government shortly after his arrest there, claiming the Saudis were essentially hold-

ing him at the U.S. government's request.

He was returned to the United States and made an initial appearance in U.S. District Court shortly after his arrival Tuesday at Dulles International Airport. He did not enter a plea, but his lawyer said he would plead innocent.

Despite the serious charges Abu Ali faces, his family said Tuesday it was a victory just to have him back in the United States.

"As long as Ahmed has his day in court, I know he will be innocent," said his mother, Faten Abu Ali.

His father, Omar Abu Ali, said Ahmed was born in Houston and raised in northern Virginia, just a few miles from the nation's capital. He attended the Islamic Saudi Academy and graduated as class valedictorian.

The private school's teachings have come under scrutiny since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. Federal court documents in a case against another academy graduate suspected of terrorism indicated that student discussions following Sept. 11 took an anti-American bent and that some students considered the attacks legitimate "payback" for American mistreatment of the Muslim world.

Man admits to killings

FORT WORTH, Texas—Court records show Stephen Dale Barbee admitted to arguing with his pregnant girlfriend, Lisa Under-

wood, over leaving his wife. Barbee allegedly said he suffocated Underwood, then suffocated her 7-year-old son, Jaden, after he interrupted the attack. Court papers said Barbee was the father of Underwood's fetus.

Barbee told investigators he put the bodies in the back of Underwood's SUV and drove to Denton County and dug a shallow grave, according to the affidavit.

Authorities found two bodies matching the description hours after arresting Barbee in connection with their disappearance Saturday.

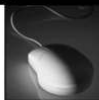
Underwood and Barbee met about two years ago at the bagel store but split up last fall because Barbee had another girlfriend, said Debbie Lindley, a neighbor of Underwood's.

From The Associated Press

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Effort to identify Sept. 11 victims ends

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The medical examiner's office has largely ended its effort to identify the remains of those killed at the World Trade Center site on Sept. 11, 2001, leaving more than a thousand victims unidentified.

"We've finished making identifications for the World Trade Center," Robert Shaler, director of forensic biology at the medical examiner's office, told the New York Daily News in a story published Wednesday.

The forensic effort failed to identify any remains of more than 1,100 victims, or almost half of the 2,749 who died there.

Since the attacks 3½ years ago, the medical examiner's office identified nearly 1,600 victims, although progress had slowed con-

siderably in recent months. Since September, only eight victims have been identified. A few inconclusive tests are still pending that could yield a couple of more identifications, Shaler told the newspaper.

The city has about 10,000 unidentified bone and tissue fragments that cannot be matched to the list of the dead.

Shaler has said that the DNA ef-

fort could be reopened if new scientific processes were developed.

"It three years from now somebody comes up with something... that really looks like it's going to work, then we're going to be poised to go after it," he told The Associated Press in 2003.

Some identifications were made quickly in the weeks after the Sept. 11, 2001, attack. To identify smaller remains, the medical ex-

aminer had to rely on DNA matching, drawing results from shards of bone and tissue. But tests were often not possible because the DNA was too damaged by heat, humidity and the passage of time.

In most cases, victims whose remains were not identified have been legally declared dead by the court anyway, based on documentation that they were at the trade center or on the hijacked airplanes.

Professor's speech stirs pot in Hawaii

Talk by man who likened some Sept. 11 victims to Nazis protested, but protected

BY JEANNETTE J. LEE

The Associated Press

HONOLULU — A University of Colorado professor criticized for his comments likening some Sept. 11 victims to Nazis defended his position, saying the attack on the World Trade Center was inevitable given U.S. international and economic policies.

"One does not advocate the volcano," said Ward Churchill, "It requires no advocacy from mere mortals. One points to the volcano and attempts to make sense of it."

Churchill spoke of U.S. atrocities in Japan, the Philippines and in the United States against Native

Hawaiians and American Indians.

About 200 people, barred from entering the University of Hawaii auditorium packed with a mostly supportive crowd of more than 400, listened to Churchill speak on an audio feed set up outside.

It was Churchill's first university speaking engagement outside Colorado since his essay comparing victims of the World Trade Center attacks to Nazis was discovered on a Web site late last month. Churchill wrote that some "technocrats" killed in the World Trade Center were like Adolf Eichmann, a Nazi official who orchestrated the extermination of 6 million European Jews in the Holocaust.



Protesters of visiting University of Colorado professor Ward Churchill gather before his public lecture, titled "Speaking Truth to Power: Academic Freedom in the Age of Terror," at the University of Hawaii campus in Honolulu on Tuesday. Churchill has been criticized for his comments likening some Sept. 11 victims to Nazis.

AP

Churchill reiterated his contention that people who function in investment and brokerage trading further economic policies in Third World countries that lead to mass misery and death.

Corinne Kamiya of Honolulu said Churchill left her inspired.

"I was impressed with his unwill-

ingness to give an inch to the other side," said Kamiya, 23. "I was very inspired when he talked about how the Christian right should support him because they also believe in 'do unto others as you would have them do unto you.'"

Kimberly Craven, a spokeswoman for the Hawaii College Republi-

cans, a 12-member club that formed last week, said she was outraged that the university was welcoming Churchill.

"It's not a matter of free speech, it's a matter of common sense," the UH senior said. "We're in a war on terror and you shouldn't bring a supporter of terrorists here."

Study: Postal workers say anthrax aftermath like syphilis experiment

BY LARA JAKES JORDAN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Employees at a U.S. postal facility that processed anthrax-laced letters told researchers they failed to get adequate information during the 2001 attacks, several comparing themselves to blacks who were denied treatment during the government's notorious Tuskegee experiments.

A Rand Corp. study released Tuesday found public health officials gave "very little useful information" to employees at the Brentwood postal facility in Washington and to U.S. Senate staff members who might have been exposed to anthrax spores.

Senate staffers reported they got reliable information from Capitol physicians, but at least some Brentwood workers said they believed government officials were more interested in observing the effects of the anthrax exposure than in treating them.

"I made it plain that I thought it was a cover-up," said one unnamed Brentwood employee who participated in the Rand study.

"Because the government's done it before. They did it with syphilis."

Government researchers withheld syphilis treatment from 399 black study participants in the Tuskegee, Ala., experiments of the 1930s, and there were 128 related deaths.

Two Brentwood employees died of anthrax exposure after the postal facility processed a letter containing anthrax spores on Oct. 12, 2001, that was mailed to former Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle. Two more were treated for inhaled anthrax, and an estimated 2,740 others were prescribed antibiotics.

Senate staffers were tested and treated beginning on Oct. 15, the day the Daschle letter was opened. The Brentwood employees were not screened or treated until Oct. 21, after co-workers tested positive for anthrax, the report found.

U.S. Postal Service spokesman Gerry McKernan said the agency itself was not aware of anthrax exposure at the Brentwood facility until Oct. 21.

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Report: Ad campaign helped cut youth smoking rates

BY HILARY ROXE
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A nationwide ad campaign funded largely by the tobacco industry has helped cut youth smoking rates, a study by a health journal estimates. But anti-smoking advocates say money for such campaigns is drying up.

The American Legacy Foundation's "truth" campaign prevented about 300,000 youths from becoming smokers between 2000 and 2002, according to a study to be released Wednesday in the March edition of the American Journal of Public Health.

That's about 22 percent of the total decline in youth smoking over the period, the study found.

But the foundation, which operates an independent nationwide campaign against youth smoking, is running low on money at the same time state legislatures cut into the amount they spend on anti-smoking campaigns.

Tobacco companies agreed to pay into a fund that contributes to the "truth" campaign as part of

the \$206 billion settlement reached with 46 states in 1998. But the agreement allowed companies to stop paying after five years if their market share was below 99 percent.

With small manufacturers gaining a foothold in the market, tobacco giants have likely already made their last payment, foundation president Cheryl Heaton said.

The public health journal study looked at surveys of eighth-, 10th- and 12th-graders conducted annually between 1997 and 2002, mea-

sured their exposure to the campaign and accounted for factors like race, gender and income to determine the effect of the ads, which often feature teens publicly questioning tobacco companies.

The surveys showed 28 percent of teens smoked in 1997, and just 18 percent did in 2002, and the study credits the campaign with 22 percent of that drop. Researchers found the prevalence of teen smoking was falling before the campaign began, but the rate at which it fell increased dramatically after "truth" ads began.

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Survey: Parents mellow about teen drug use

NEW YORK — Today's parents in the United States, who were more likely to have used drugs than in previous generations, see less risk in drug experimentation and are less likely to speak with their children about it, according to a survey released Tuesday.

The study of parental attitudes toward teen drug use, conducted by The Partnership for a Drug-Free America, found that barely half of the parents would be upset if their children experimented with marijuana. While most parents no longer use drugs, they still carry attitudes fostered during their teen years, researchers found.

NIH ethics investigation clears researchers

WASHINGTON — National Institutes of Health investigators have cleared up to 80 percent of its researchers suspected of secret deals with pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, officials say.

NIH officials found errors by government investigators had led to as many as 80 of an estimated 100 researchers being mistakenly implicated in a federal probe of consulting arrangements, The Washington Post reported in Wednesday's editions.

From The Associated Press

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IN THE WORLD



Two girls on Wednesday walk through their home, which was destroyed during Tuesday's earthquake in Iran.

Iran deaths rise to at least 500

BY NASSER KARIMI
The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD, Iran — Rescue teams using dogs and heavy machinery pulled more bodies from the ruins of flattened villages in central Iran on Wednesday, and officials raised the death toll from a powerful earthquake to at least 500. The count was expected to rise even higher.

A 14-year-old girl was pulled out of the rubble alive and immediately asked if her family survived.

Teams were hampered by bad weather and the mountainous terrain, working in a cold, heavy rain after a night during which temperatures dropped below freezing.

Mohammad Javad Fadaei, deputy governor of Kerman province, said more bodies had been discovered. "The death toll is now 500, and there's a possibility that the figure will increase," he said. At least 900 people were injured.

Many survivors huddled in tents, trying to escape the chill, after the magnitude 6.4 struck early Tuesday, damaging some 40 villages with a combined population of 30,000 people and leaving many homeless. Rescue work-

ers were still digging out survivors and bodies in the three most isolated villages.

Search efforts also continued in Sarbagh and Dahouieh, which rescue workers had the most difficulty reaching in the hours after the quake hit. In Dahouieh, every building except a mosque with a golden dome had collapsed. At least 80 percent of the buildings in Sarbagh were leveled.

Iran's supreme leader Ayatol-

lah Ali Khamenei expressed his "deep grief and sorrow" over the deaths and offered his condolences to the victims' families, urging rescue workers to speed up their efforts.

President Bush also expressed his condolences. "The United States stands ready to assist the people of Iran in responding to this tragedy, and we will be in contact with the government of Iran to offer concrete help," a written statement from the White House said.

Serbia rejects plan by Montenegro to split nation in two

BY DUSAN STOJANOVIC
The Associated Press

BELGRADE, Serbia-Montenegro — Serbia's prime minister and other top officials on Wednesday flatly rejected Montenegro's proposal for a final split of their joint state.

Montenegro's president and prime minister on Tuesday proposed the peaceful disintegration of Serbia-Montenegro, suggesting that the two former Yugoslav republics recognize each other as sovereign states.

If accepted by Belgrade, the deal would abolish what little has remained of the Serbia-Montenegro union, established in 2003 under European Union auspices as a successor state to the already dissolved version of the former Yugoslavia.

"The proposal that you have sent to me represents a serious breach of the Belgrade accord" that was signed in 2003 between the two Balkan republics, Serbian Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica said in a letter sent to Montenegro President Filip Vujanovic and Prime Minister Milo Djukanovic.

"I remain committed to what we have signed," Kostunica said.

Once part of the six-republic Yugoslav federation, much larger Serbia and tiny Montenegro stayed together when four other republics seceded in the early 1990s. Relations between the two deteriorated over the years, especially during the autocratic rule of former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic.

Serbia's officials, including Kostunica, have sought to retain the union with Montenegro, despite growing pro-separation sentiment in Serbia.

The Montenegro officials proposing the split complained in their letter Tuesday that "the current union is dysfunctional, its institutions are slow and inefficient."

The document, sent to Serbia's leadership for consideration, said Montenegro's proposal "would resolve the current shortcomings and ensure lasting, stable and quality cooperation."

Serbia and Montenegro have broad autonomy under the EU-brokered deal, sharing only a limited central administration in charge of foreign and defense affairs.

Italians arrest Algerian terror suspect

ROME — Italian police arrested an Algerian man at Milan's international airport Wednesday on terrorism charges stemming from an arrest warrant issued by Algerian authorities, police said.

The Italian news agency ANSA identified the suspect as Remli Nadir, 47, Nadir, arrested upon arrival at Milan's Malpensa airport, was traveling with a British passport and was accompanied by a minor, ANSA said.

On Monday, the trial of five men charged with belonging to a cell that recruited militants to fight in Iraq and had links to terrorist group Ansar al-Islam opened in Milan.

The key suspect, Algerian Abderrazak Mahdjoub, was arrested in Hamburg, Germany, in November 2003 at the request of Italian authorities, and extradited to Italy in March.

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Bush demands Syria pull troops from Lebanon

BY ZEINA KARAM

The Associated Press

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Lebanon's pro-Syrian government signaled its willingness to step down Wednesday in an attempt to contain growing anger at Damascus over the assassination of a top politician. President Bush turned up the heat on Syria, demanding a total withdrawal from Lebanon.

With the international pressure on Damascus piling up, U.S. ally Egypt stepped in to mediate. President Hosni Mubarak sent his intelligence chief to Syria and said he expected Damascus to redeploy troops in Lebanon. But he did not mention a full withdrawal of Syria's 15,000-strong military

garrison as demanded by Washington, Paris and the United Nations.

Prime Minister Omar Karami made the conditional offer to step down in a newspaper interview. "I am ready to resign on condition that we agree on a new government in order to avoid falling into a constitutional vacuum," he told the daily *Al-Nahar*.

Karami said he will seek a vote of confidence in Parliament on Monday, when lawmakers convene to discuss former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri's assassination in a Feb. 14 bombing on a Beirut street that also killed 16 others. The debate was requested by opposition legislators.

The government holds a majority in parliament but might lose it amid the unpre-

cedented hostility toward Syria and its Lebanese allies over Hariri's slaying. The political powers here and in Syria — the main power broker in Lebanon — may see Karami's departure as a way to defuse the tensions.

Bush ratcheted up the pressure Wednesday, renewing demands that Syrian pull out its forces and adding that "secret services" also must go.

The opposition wants an end to the Syrian intelligence network's interference in Lebanese politics, particularly ahead of legislative elections in April and May. The Syrian influence was seen as instrumental in pressuring Parliament and Hariri into accepting the extension of Lahoud's term by

three more years despite U.N. Security Council demands not to do so.

Bush and French President Jacques Chirac on Tuesday jointly demanded the withdrawal of Syrian troops and endorsed a U.N. investigation into the assassination.

"The charge is out there for the Syrian government to hear loud and clear," Bush said Wednesday, speaking in Germany. "We will see how they respond before there is any further discussions about going back to the United Nations" to seek a resolution demanding the withdrawal.

President Emile Lahoud, Syria's top ally in Lebanon, took a tougher line than Karami, telling the *Sada el-Balad* newspaper Wednesday that the government cannot succumb to opposition demands.

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STARS & STRIPES
Your American Magazine

Winter wonderland blankets Paris



Snow covers the Champ de Mars under the Eiffel Tower in Paris, after snow blanketed the French capital Wednesday, creating huge traffic jams and delaying flights at airports. The Invalides military hospital is visible in background. Meanwhile, Madrid — a city rarely associated with snow — woke up under a blanket of white Wednesday, as up to 4 inches of snow fell. The snowfall in Spain's capital caused traffic jams on roads leading into the city center and held up commuter trains, delayed by snow on the tracks.

A 'royal bombshell'

Queen won't attend Charles' nuptials

The Associated Press

LONDON — Queen Elizabeth II's decision to stay away from the wedding of her son and heir isn't a snub to Prince Charles or his longtime love, the royal family insisted Wednesday.

But "royal watchers" and the British media, already amazed at signs of poor organization surrounding the marriage that is just over six weeks away, remained unconvinced.

"Royal bombshell" was how the popular daily, *The Sun*, described the announcement that the monarch will not attend the civil marriage ceremony of Prince Charles and fellow divorcee Camilla Parker Bowles on April 8. "Queen snubs the wedding," wrote the Daily Mail.

Buckingham Palace and Charles' office denied that was the case, and pointed out that the queen would attend a church blessing after the marriage.

A Buckingham Palace spokeswoman said the monarch was

missing the marriage "because she is aware that the prince and Parker Bowles wanted to keep the occasion low-key." She said the queen would attend the blessing at St. George's Chapel in Windsor Castle following the civil ceremony at the Guildhall, Windsor's town hall.

"Clearly, if the queen were to attend the civil ceremony, the occasion would no longer be, by definition, low-key," the spokeswoman said Tuesday, speaking on condition of anonymity. She insisted the queen's decision was "not a snub."

Prince Charles, 56, and his fiancée, 57, are marrying in a civil ceremony because the Church of England — of which Charles will become supreme governor when he takes the throne — traditionally frowns on church marriages for divorcees whose spouses are still alive.

Charles and Diana divorced in 1996. She died in a car accident the next year. Parker Bowles is divorced and her ex-husband is still alive.

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AIG EUROPE

Clinton to give AIDS drugs to Chinese children

Nation struggling to control disease

The Associated Press

BEIJING — Former U.S. President Bill Clinton signed an agreement Wednesday with China to provide a year's supply of AIDS drugs to 200 children to help Beijing battle the disease.

The program is part of a three-year, \$10 million deal struck last year between the Clinton Foundation and China's Health Ministry.

The Chinese government says an estimated 840,000 people have been infected with the AIDS virus in the nation. The U.N. AIDS agency says the number of infections could rise tenfold to 10 million by 2010 if urgent action is not taken.

"We have a real chance to keep this epidemic from spiraling out of control," Clinton said during the signing ceremony, held at the Health Ministry shortly after his arrival.

No details were released about the pediatric drug program.

Clinton said he has taken "personal pleasure" in helping China tackle the spread of AIDS and was impressed at the country's response. "I hope China's actions will encourage other countries (suffering from AIDS) to do as much," he said.

Tens of thousands of people in central Henan province were infected in the 1990s because of an unsanitary blood-buying industry. In some villages nearly every family has a member with the virus, giving parts of the province some of the world's highest rates of AIDS infection.

Beijing has become increasingly open about its AIDS epidemic after years of denial, promising to provide free testing and counseling for those who seek it and free anti-retroviral treatment for the poor.

During the Lunar New Year



Former U.S. President Bill Clinton, left, shakes hands with Gao Qiang, China's executive deputy health minister, after the Clinton Foundation agreed to provide a year's supply of AIDS drugs to 200 children to help China's battle against the disease.

this month, Premier Wen Jiabao visited AIDS patients and called for better prevention measures. The move not only showed the government's efforts to reduce the stigma of the disease, but also highlighted its concern about controlling its spread.

Since leaving office, Clinton has been using the celebrity sta-

tus to get HIV therapies to needy countries through his Little Rock, Arkansas-based foundation.

He has brokered deals with several major pharmaceutical companies to supply AIDS drugs at discounted prices to the Third World and has sent policy experts to help countries fight the disease.

Food guide blunder

PARIS — The famed Michelin Guide, whose star system can make or break French restaurants, rushed out its 2005 honors on Wednesday — a week early — after the "little red book" mistakenly went on sale early.

M Michelin added one restaurant to its top three-star rating — Le Clos des Cimes in Saint-Bonnet-le-Froid in the Haute-Loire region — and 11 restaurants to its two-star category.

The ratings were to have been published March 2, but some bookstores, notably in Corsica, received the new guide early, forcing publication a week ahead of the scheduled date.

Gas price-fixing fines

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — The Swedish Market Court on Tuesday increased the fines against five oil and gas companies convicted of price fixing in the Scandinavian country in 2003.

The court said Statoil, Shell, O2, Green and Hydro should pay a combined \$16 million for coordinating gas prices and discounts in 1999, more than doubling an original fine of \$7.6 million set by the Stockholm District Court in 2003.

The verdict is final and cannot be appealed.

The competition authority used the five companies for more than \$58.1 million, saying they had fixed prices and discounts at meetings supposed to focus on environmental issues.

Satanic cult killings

ROME — Two members of a heavy metal group called the Beasts of Satan who confessed to taking part in three ritual Satanic slayings were sentenced to prison Tuesday, and a third defendant was acquitted.

Andrea Volpe, Pietro Guerrieri and Mario Maccone had confessed to roles in the grisly 1998 killings of Chiara Morino, 19, and Fabio Tollis, 18, in the woods outside of Milan. Five other members of their suspected Satanic cult have been ordered to stand trial.

Volpe, considered the mastermind of the ritual killings, was sentenced to 30 years in prison — 10 years more than prosecutors had asked for. Guerrieri was given 16 years in prison, and Maccone — who authorities said played secondary role in the murders — was cleared.

Mars ice sea found

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands — Images relayed by a European space probe reveal the existence of a sea of ice close to the equator of Mars, scientists said Tuesday at a conference in the Netherlands.

The existence of water or ice would significantly increase the chance that microscopic life may also be found on Mars.

The evidence comes from photographs — not yet published — taken last year by the European Space Agency's Mars Express probe currently orbiting the red planet.

Scientists have long theorized there was once water on Mars, and even NASA's Marsrovers has recently appeared to confirm it.

From The Associated Press

Bavaria doesn't want 'Mein Kampf' in Poland

The Associated Press

BERLIN — A German state that holds the rights to Adolf Hitler's book "Mein Kampf" said Tuesday it was seeking legal action to prevent the book from being published in Poland.

The book, which details the Nazi dictator's anti-Semitic views and other beliefs, is due to go on sale in a few days. Polish publisher XXL said it wants to make a historical record available, but it also cites "a 1,000-year-old worry" among Poles about "the German dream of vast fertile lands and natural resources in the east."

Authorities in the state of Bavaria, which the victorious World War II allies designated as the guardian of Hitler's estate, issued a

statement Tuesday noting that they hold the rights to "Mein Kampf."

"Bavaria applies those rights very restrictively to prevent the spread of Nazi ideology," state Finance Minister Kurt Falthausen said.

"Bavaria applies [Hitler estate] rights very restrictively to prevent the spread of Nazi ideology."

Bavaria Finance Minister Kurt Falthausen

Bavaria has asked Germany's Foreign Ministry to instruct its diplomats in Poland to seek a court injunction against the book, he said.

"Mein Kampf," or "My Struggle," is banned from public sale in Germany, although it is available for historical research in libraries.

In Poland, XXL has printed an initial run of 2,000 copies. The planned publication comes

at a time of renewed tension over threats by some Germans to sue for the return of ancestral property they lost in Poland at the end of World War II. Those claims are not supported by the German government.

Nazi Germany started the war by invading Poland in 1939, subjected the country to a brutal occupation that cost millions of lives and set up death camps in Poland as part of the Holocaust, in which 6 million European Jews died.

The book was banned in Poland during the decades of communist rule that ended in 1989. The new edition is unlikely to raise legal problems because its foreword puts it in a historical context, said Zbigniew Holda, a legal expert.

China's oldest World War II sex slave dies at age 94

BY ELAINE KURTENBACH

The Associated Press

SHANGHAI, China — Zhu Quomei, China's oldest surviving sex slave from World War II who had fought for compensation from the Japanese government, has died at age 94, state media reported Wednesday.

Zhu was among seven women on Shanghai's Chongming Island, in the Yangtze River, known to have been forced to work as prostitutes for Japanese soldiers during the war. Her ordeal, which lasted more than two

years, began when she was three months pregnant.

She died Sunday, the state-run newspaper Shanghai Daily reported. "Her only wish was to get justice," it quoted her son, Zhou Xin, as saying.

Local lawyers have been helping Zhu and some other former sex slaves, all in their 80s and 90s, to obtain national documents to be used as evidence when demanding compensation for their wartime experiences, the report said.

Historians estimate 200,000 women, mostly from Korea and

the Philippines but also from China, Indonesia and the Netherlands, were pressed into wartime prostitution for millions of Japanese soldiers stationed throughout Asia.

Zhu was among a group of former sex slaves who filed a class-action lawsuit against the Japanese government in 2000 in the District Court of Washington, D.C.

In June, the U.S. Supreme Court ordered the case, initially rejected, to be reconsidered in light of a ruling last year that a federal law allows American

courts to hear old disputes over such things as wartime crimes unless the suits are barred by treaties.

Japanese courts have rejected a number of lawsuits brought by former sex slaves and the Japanese government refuses to provide official compensation, saying such issues were handled under postwar treaties.

A court document said Zhu lived at home but was forced to work in a military brothel and raped repeatedly by soldiers stationed nearby. Her husband eventually fled and was beaten to death by Japanese troops.

Child endangered

IA WINTERSSET — A 10-year-old girl weighing just 59 pounds was discovered locked in a bedroom, and her father and his girlfriend were charged with child endangerment, police said.

Police found the girl while investigating a tip about possible child neglect, Police Chief Ken Burk said.

"She was being locked in a room while the parents were out of the house," Burk said.

The girl and a 14-year-old boy who also lived at the home were placed in foster care, police said. The girl's father, Jon Neely, 38, and his girlfriend, Kimberly Holtmeyer, 36, were arrested on child endangerment charges and each posted \$9,750 bail. They would not comment.

Plan might not float

HI WAILUKU — A plan to bring an inter-island ferry system to Hawaii would be sunk if a lengthy environmental review process is required, the head of the company said.

John Garbaldi, chief executive officer of Hawaii Superferry, Inc., said an environmental impact statement, or EIS, would take up to a year and a half to complete, which would jeopardize construction and hundreds of millions of dollars in funding.

Superferry's possible demise before it even is launched would be a disappointment to many residents and tourists, who are looking forward to a cheaper alternative to pricey interisland air travel and one that would allow them to take their cars along, too.

Superferry plans to run two ferries, each carrying 866 passengers and 282 cars, daily between Honolulu and Maui, Kauai and the Big Island — for about half of what current air fares cost.

Jeweler thwarts robber

NY BARDONA — Barry Fixler was back at work in his jewelry store the day after he managed to draw his own gun and shoot a robber who had a gun pointed at his head.

The robber, who was seriously wounded, is expected to survive.

Two alleged confederates who fled after the shooting were arrested within 12 hours, one in Nanuet and one in Connecticut, police said.

Detective Lt. Charles Delo said a review of the shooting on a surveillance videotape showed it to be justified. Fixler, a 57-year-old former Marine, had a permit for the gun.

Bible classes studied

VA STAUNTON — Public elementary schools will continue to allow Bible study during class time while the local school board conducts a one-year review to determine if criticism of the practice by some parents is valid.

Several hundred people attended the school board meeting, with many standing and applauding the 5-1 decision to begin the review while continuing religious classes, a tradition in Staunton and some other rural Virginia school districts for more than 60 years.

"My conscience tells me this



community needs this program, and we need to keep it," board member Annie Whitesell said.

In the Weekly Religious Education program, first-, second- and third-graders go to nearby churches for Bible classes during school hours.

Jailbird's proxy wedding

KY CORPUS CHRISTI — A Kentucky fugitive captured in Corpus Christi for being on the run for 15 years was married by proxy to his common-law wife.

Ralph Robert Annis, 53, had lived in Corpus Christi for about 15 years as Michael Winters. His common-law wife, Linda Winters, didn't know before his arrest earlier this month about his conviction in the strangulation of his ex-girlfriend's 10-month-old daughter in 1978.

Annis failed to return from a weekend furlough in 1990 while serving a 20-year sentence.

Annis' capture came a few weeks after the Lexington (Ky.) Herald-Leader began questioning Kentucky officials about their inability to find him.

Justice of the Peace Henry Santana conducted the proxy marriage while Annis remained in the Neuces County Jail.

Treated birds released

SC COLUMBIA — Animal rescue workers have released about 100 birds that were treated for shock and concussions after crashing into an office building's windows recently.

The cedar waxwings were released at the Honeywell wildlife refuge. About 30 birds remain with Carolina Wildlife Care.

A couple of weeks ago, the birds, intoxicated on holly berries,

became confused and crashed into windows. Hundreds were injured and many died.

That was some ride

UT MONA — A hiker fell about 1,000 feet down a mountain side, riding an avalanche feet-first — and suffered only minor injuries.

"Extremely lucky," said Juab County Sheriff Alden Orme.

Mark Thomas and two companions were hiking on a ridge near Mount Nebo when snow gave way beneath them, they told police.

His friends did not fall, but Thomas, 21, of Salt Lake City, slid about 1,000 feet, triggering an avalanche, Orme said.

Thomas had a minor back injury and frosted feet, police said.

Jumping for record

WA BREMERTON — A 96-year-old man aiming to become the oldest person to make a solo skydiving jump had a rough landing near here and suffered a dislocated shoulder, but otherwise emerged unscathed. Milburn Hart of Seattle jumped out of a plane near the Bremerton airport.

Hart, who lives at the North Haven Retirement Center, prepared for the jump with five hours of training and a written test. He'd made two jumps in tandem with an experienced jumper last year.

The folks on the ground watched anxiously as he swung toward the landing site, then away. Slowly, he dropped out of sight into distant trees, landing in an old gravel pit.

Fur flies over cat clinic

DC WASHINGTON — The fur has been flying at John Eaton Elementary School ever since parents discovered that a cat spay and neutering clinic was held there without their knowledge.

After hearing concerns about student health, the school system canceled classes and scheduled a meeting for parents to "determine our course of action," principal Willie McElroy said in a statement.

Parents said McElroy never told them about the weekend event.

Crews spent two days thoroughly cleaning the cafeteria where the cat surgeries took place on Saturday and Sunday.

Teen caught after calls

MO ST. LOUIS — A teenager has been accused of using a stolen cell phone to swamp dispatchers with hundreds of bogus 911 calls over a matter of weeks, at times talking of killing some of the responding officers he could see.

The 15-year-old boy sometimes was such a nuisance he called in new emergencies at the same address where officers already were standing, St. Louis County Police spokesman Mason Keller said.

The young culprit was tracked down only after dispatchers added 25 bogus calls within 75 minutes to the same area where the officer already had arrived, Keller said.



Fire spread to house Firefighters battle a garage and house fire in Old Mystic, Conn.

The fire started with an explosion in the attached garage. Ten fire departments were called to the scene to battle the blaze.



New year's fun

Ellie Toler, 6, center left, and Mia Schmieters, 5, center right, try on a costume used for a traditional lion dance during a Chinese new year party in Maryland Heights, Mo.



Wind downs trees

East Limestone volunteer firefighter Jonathan Hinton pulls a

ladder over trees downed in Claudine Gregg's front yard by a severe thunderstorm. Gregg's house in Limestone County, Ala., was damaged when some of the large pine trees were blown onto her roof.



All for George

Bagpipers march in the George Washington Birthday Parade in Alexandria, Va.



Good skates

Sean Larsson, 14, left, and his father, Mikael, skate on the Triviz path in Las Cruces, N.M.



An auction on the wild side Victoria Walsh, left, Earl Bragg, center, and Bob Fold discuss the furs for auction at the Alaska State Fish and Game horn and hide auction in Anchorage, Alaska. The antlers and hides being auctioned are from animals that were poached, killed by accident or in defense of life or property, or were shot because they had become a nuisance. The auction is the only place in the United States where a person can legally buy a bear hide.



Man, that's cold

Andrew Pearcy, 10, reacts to the cold water in Shadow Lake during the Greenwood Special Olympic Polar Bear Plunge fund-raiser in Greenwood, Ark.



Sunrise in Louisiana

The late winter sun rises over a catfish pond outside of DeRidder, La.

Crash kills paramedics

AR LITTLE ROCK — A train slammed into an ambulance that apparently tried to get out of its path, but stopped at a rail crossing, killing all three paramedics on board. The patient in the vehicle survived, officials said.

Paramedics Jeff Ferrand, 37, and John Rook, 23, died at the scene after the Union Pacific train hit the front end of the ambulance, spinning it around and ejecting the emergency workers.

A third paramedic, Christopher Klingman, also 23, was taken to a hospital but later died, officials said.

Dancing for charity

PA STATE COLLEGE — About 700 Penn State University students danced for 48 hours, raising a record \$4.1 million to fight childhood cancer.

The 33rd annual Dance Marathon, or THON, raises money for a charity that operates out of Penn State's medical school in Hershey.

THON has raised more than \$30 million since its start in 1973.

Hearst Ranch preserved

CA SAN FRANCISCO — One of the largest land conservation deals in California history became final when the state and two conservation groups closed escrow on a \$95 million agreement to preserve Hearst Ranch, the nearly pristine stretch of coastal rangeland that surrounds Hearst Castle.

Under terms of the sale, nearly all the 82,000-acre ranch about 200 miles north of Los Angeles will remain undeveloped, while 13 miles of coastline that has been privately held for generations will transfer to the state for public access, according to the governor's office.

Battlefield zoning

WV FAYETTEVILLE — A judge has reversed a decision that allowed a 60-acre parcel some say contains a Civil War battlefield and cemetery to be rezoned for the development of a Wal-Mart Supercenter.

Raleigh County Circuit Judge Robert A. Burnside Jr. ruled the public never got a chance to review a completed rezoning application or adequately prepare a response to the Wal-Mart project. He ruled that the zoning reclassification earlier approved by Fayetteville's Planning Commission should be reversed and the matter sent back to the town.

Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy have expressed concerns that the shopping center would disturb a Civil War cemetery and part of a farm area that they believe to be the site of the Battle of Fayetteville.

Name change proposal

MA NEWBURY — Governor Dummer Academy, the country's oldest independent boarding school, was founded before the Revolution. Jokes about its name have been around roughly as long.

The school is named for William Dummer, a former acting governor of Massachusetts who

donated land to start the school.

But in a move that has sparked outrage, school trustees decided it was time to put the kidding to rest and drop "Dummer" from the school's name.

Alumni responded with letters and e-mails that forcefully questioned the need for a change and indicated their financial support was at stake.

The early protests paid off. After alumni and students filled a meeting with trustees to explain their opposition early this month, the board decided to rethink its decision. It announced it would explain why it endorsed what it called a "name evolution" over the next several months as it consulted with students and alumni.

A load of sardines

OR ASTORIA — Oregon fishermen landed almost 80 million pounds of sardines last year, according to state wildlife biologists. That's more than any commercial catch except Pacific whiting. The sardines are especially popular in Japan, where many sardines are used for tuna bait. The boom has also fueled cannery expansion in Astoria.

Forever in bluejeans

ME MACHIASPORT — Inmates at the Downeast Correctional Facility have sewn more than 15,000 pairs of bluejeans during the past four years, all of them worn by the 2,000 male inmates in Maine's prison system.

Now, the garment shop at the Bucks Harbor prison has expanded beyond jeans and is making jean jackets that may someday find a market beyond the prison fences.

Maine saves money by outfitting its inmates with jeans made from the pattern kits. It's also a good deal for inmates selected for the coveted sewing jobs that pay up to \$2.90 an hour.

No dice on taxes

FL TALLAHASSEE — Gambling jaunts known as cruise-to-nowhere, don't owe taxes on commercial activity that happens beyond the state's territorial waters, the Florida Supreme Court ruled.

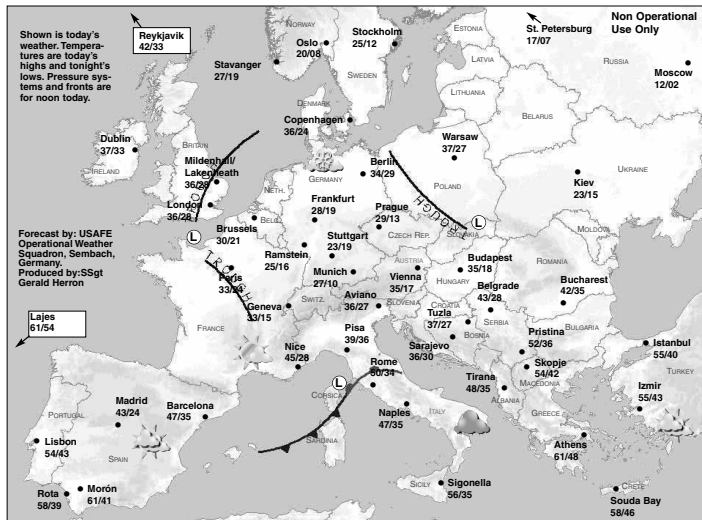
Unanimously backing a lower court, the justices rejected the state's argument that New Sea Escape's gambling trips fall under intrastate commerce rules because its ships never reach a foreign port.

Instead, the court found the Bahamian company can operate under state law on foreign or interstate commerce, meaning it must pay only the state's 6-mill sales and use tax for commerce conducted within the state's territorial boundaries.

Hmong pass TB tests

WI WAUSAU — Hmong refugees from a camp in Thailand are again resettling in Wisconsin after the program was temporarily halted in January because some refugees tested positive for tuberculosis. The U.S. State Department is now using more rigorous testing methods on the approximately 6,000 refugees remaining at Wat Tham Krabok.

Photos and stories from wire services



KEY: Sunny P.Cldy. Mostly cldy. Cloudy Shower Tornado Rain Rainbow Snow

Cold frnt. Warm frnt. Trough Occluded fr. Slaty frnt. Low High

EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Mostly cloudy with snowshowers. Highs in the low to mid-20s. Friday lows in the low to mid-20s.

Britain, Ireland: Mostly cloudy with rain/snowshowers. Highs in the mid to upper 30s. Friday lows in the upper 20s to lower 30s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Cloudy with rain/snow mix. Highs in the mid to upper 30s. Friday lows in the upper 20s to lower 30s.

France: Cloudy with isolated snowshowers in the north. Highs in the lower to mid-30s with lows in the mid 20s. Partly cloudy in the south with highs in the mid 40s. Friday lows in the upper 20s.

Northern Germany: Cloudy with isolated snowshowers. Highs in the upper 20s to mid-30s. Friday lows in the upper teens to upper 20s.

Southern Germany: Mostly cloudy with isolated snowshowers. Highs in the 20s. Friday lows in the teens.

Hungary: Cloudy with rain/snow mix. Highs in the mid-30s. Friday lows in the upper teens.

Northern Italy: Mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid to upper 30s. Friday lows in the upper 20s to mid-30s.

Southern Italy: Cloudy with rain/snowshowers. Highs in the mid-40s to mid-50s. Friday lows in the mid-30s.

Kosovo: Mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower to mid-50s. Friday lows in the mid-30s to lower 40s.

Norway: Partly cloudy. Highs in the 20s. Friday lows in the upper single digits to upper teens.

Portugal, Spain: Partly to mostly cloudy with isolated rainshowers in the east. Highs in the 40s in the north and mid-50s to lower 60s in the south. Friday lows in the mid-30s in the north and upper 30s to lower 40s in the south.

Turkey: Mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower 50s to lower 60s. Friday lows in the lower 30s to lower 40s.

AFRICA

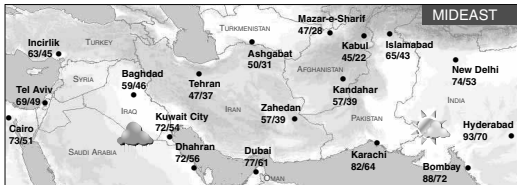
	HI	LO		HI	LO
Cape Town	80	63	Mogadishu	88	75
Dakar	83	63	Nairobi	86	58
Freetown	89	77	Rabat	63	41
Windhoek	92	74	Tripoli	65	48

THE WORLD

	HI	LO		HI	LO
Amsterdam	36	27	Manila	93	76
Batman	71	57	Mexico City	72	47
Beijing	30	10	Montreal	20	01
Bombay	68	54	Typhat	84	58
Buenos Aires	67	58	Rio de Jan	88	74
Calcutta	88	74	Sana'a	39	14
Helsinki	67	51	Sofia	46	33
Hong Kong	68	61	Sydney	83	70
Lisbon	55	44	Tokyo	58	45

TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

	HI	LO	Outlook		HI	LO	Outlook
Alabama	76	59	Rain	Connecticut	50	39	Rain
Alaska	30	18	Drizzle	Colorado	50	39	Rain
Arizona	73	59	Rain	Delaware	50	39	Rain
Arkansas	73	59	Rain	District of Columbia	50	39	Rain
California	73	59	Rain	Florida	50	39	Rain
Colorado	50	39	Rain	Georgia	50	39	Rain
Connecticut	50	39	Rain	Hawaii	50	39	Rain
Dakota	50	39	Rain	Idaho	50	39	Rain
Delaware	50	39	Rain	Illinois	50	39	Rain
District of Columbia	50	39	Rain	Indiana	50	39	Rain
Dominican Republic	50	39	Rain	Iowa	50	39	Rain
Dominican Republic	50	39	Rain	Kansas	50	39	Rain
Dominican Republic	50	39	Rain	Kentucky	50	39	Rain
Dominican Republic	50	39	Rain	Louisiana	50	39	Rain
Dominican Republic	50	39	Rain	Maine	50	39	Rain
Dominican Republic	50	39	Rain	Maryland	50	39	Rain
Dominican Republic	50	39	Rain	Massachusetts	50	39	Rain
Dominican Republic	50	39	Rain	Michigan	50	39	Rain
Dominican Republic	50	39	Rain	Minnesota	50	39	Rain
Dominican Republic	50	39	Rain	Mississippi	50	39	Rain
Dominican Republic	50	39	Rain	Missouri	50	39	Rain
Dominican Republic	50	39	Rain	Montana	50	39	Rain
Dominican Republic	50	39	Rain	Nebraska	50	39	Rain
Dominican Republic	50	39	Rain	Nevada	50	39	Rain
Dominican Republic	50	39	Rain	New Hampshire	50	39	Rain
Dominican Republic	50	39	Rain	New Jersey	50	39	Rain
Dominican Republic	50	39	Rain	New Mexico	50	39	Rain
Dominican Republic	50	39	Rain	New York	50	39	Rain
Dominican Republic	50	39	Rain	North Carolina	50	39	Rain
Dominican Republic	50	39	Rain	North Dakota	50	39	Rain
Dominican Republic	50	39	Rain	Ohio	50	39	Rain
Dominican Republic	50	39	Rain	Oklahoma	50	39	Rain
Dominican Republic	50	39	Rain	Oregon	50	39	Rain
Dominican Republic	50	39	Rain	Pennsylvania	50	39	Rain
Dominican Republic	50	39	Rain	Rhode Island	50	39	Rain
Dominican Republic	50	39	Rain	South Carolina	50	39	Rain
Dominican Republic	50	39	Rain	South Dakota	50	39	Rain
Dominican Republic	50	39	Rain	Tennessee	50	39	Rain
Dominican Republic	50	39	Rain	Texas	50	39	Rain
Dominican Republic	50	39	Rain	Utah	50	39	Rain
Dominican Republic	50	39	Rain	Vermont	50	39	Rain
Dominican Republic	50	39	Rain	Virginia	50	39	Rain
Dominican Republic	50	39	Rain	Washington	50	39	Rain
Dominican Republic	50	39	Rain	West Virginia	50	39	Rain
Dominican Republic	50	39	Rain	Wisconsin	50	39	Rain
Dominican Republic	50	39	Rain	Wyoming	50	39	Rain



MIDEAST

For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAF Operational Weather Squadron home page at <https://www.smbach.af.mil>

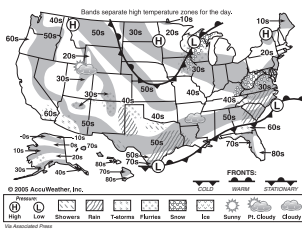
SUN & MOON

	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise (Baghdad)	6:37AM	6:36AM
Sunrise (Frankfurt)	7:00AM	7:16AM
Sunset (Baghdad)	5:56PM	5:57PM
Sunset (Frankfurt)	6:00PM	6:02PM

Last 1st: 3 Mar 05
New moon: 10 Mar 05
First 1st: 17 Mar 05
Full moon: 25 Mar 05

THE UNITED STATES TODAY

As of noon, Eastern U.S. time



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PHOTOS BY JOHN TAYLOR/Stars and Stripes

Above: Morning swimmers launch into the winter's cold water from the bathhouse on the town beach in Paphos, Cyprus. Below: Kykkos Monastery in the Troödos Mountains was built in the early to mid-19th century near the cave where the hermit who led to the creation of the monastery lived.

Island of legends combines exotic history and hedonism

BY JOHN TAYLOR

Stars and Stripes

During the summer, Cyprus is a holiday hot spot known for its sun, sand and revelers looking for fun. In the off-season it is all this, and less. Less crowded, less hot and less expensive.

But that does not mean it is quiet, cold or cheap. At least not in Paphos, a popular package-tour destination on the west coast.

We flew there for a week during the Thanksgiving holiday. The crowds were manageable, the temperatures were in the upper 60s, and the fly-and-hotel deals were much less than in July and August, which our hotel manager said are the busiest months of the year.

Paphos, a town of about 40,000, is on the Greek side of the island, where most of the developed areas are. The island is divided because in 1974 Turkish forces invaded to stop national guardsmen backed by Greek military officers from pulling off a coup and making the

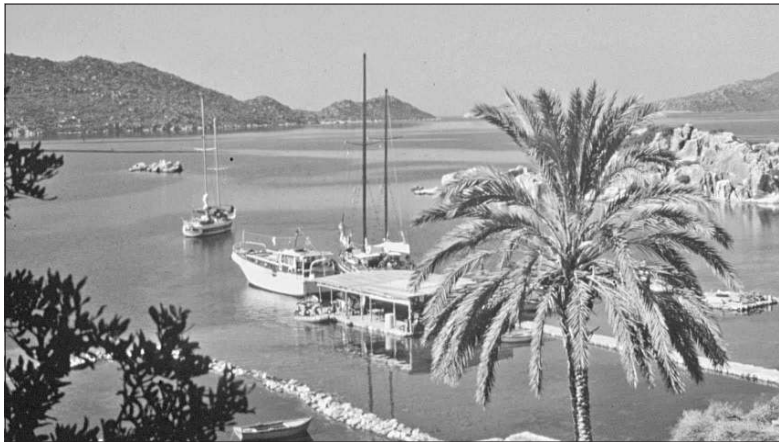
island part of Greece. That same month, the Greek junta that had helped launch the coup was overthrown in Greece and the Cypriot president returned to power. But the Turks did not leave the northern end of the island, and they remain there today.

This is a major concern for both the people of Cyprus and the international community. The Greek Cypriots hope some day the "occupation" will end, those driven from their homes will be able to return and the country will again be united. The European Union wants Turkey to recognize the government of Cyprus, which is already a member, before Turkey is admitted to the EU.

Paphos is also divided in two: the touristy area built around a small, pleasant harbor, and the business area, a short bus ride up a hill market. The streets along the waterfront and in a pedestrian area a few blocks away are packed with restaurants, cafes and bars, souvenir shops, jewelry and leather stores and, oddly, optical offices. The island was once

SEE CYPRUS, PAGE 22





Courtesy of Turkish Tourist Office

The Turkish Riviera spreads countless miles to the east and west of Antalya. It is bathed in sunshine for 300 days of the year.

TURKISH DELIGHT

Antalya offers friendly people and beautiful landscapes

BY MARK WHITE
Stripes Travel reader

• IF YOU GO, PAGE 22



In the picturesque old quarter of Antalya, narrow, winding streets and old wooden houses abut the ancient city walls.

My first notions about Turkey were that it is a faraway land with an exotic culture, food, music and people. But after my second vacation there, I learned it is also a place of friendly people and glorious weather.

And one of the best things about it is that is not far away. It is only 3½ hours of flying time from Berlin, where I live. No more long, boring plane rides — it takes six hours of flying time to reach the Canary Islands and eight to get to New York.

The destination on our latest trip was Antalya, a vacation heaven in a beautiful natural setting in southern Turkey. The Toros (Taurus) Mountains sweep down to the Mediterranean, forming an irregular coastline of rocky mountains and secluded coves.

The Turkish Riviera, as this area is known, spreads countless miles to the east and west of Antalya. It is bathed in sunshine for 300 days of the year and is perfect for a lazy or active vacation in the sun. Options include swimming or water skiing, windsurfing, para-sailing, fishing, mountain climbing, hunting, exploring or just plain sight-seeing among the ancient ruins or shopping in the bustling metropolises of Antalya. In March and

TRAVEL TALES

April, you can ski on challenging slopes in the morning and swim in the cool refreshing sea in the afternoon.

The coast is graced with beautiful beaches, some sandy and some stony, encircled by pine forests, olive trees and citrus groves and palm, avocado and banana plantations. It is home to a rich variety of plant and wildlife, and to protected conservation areas.

The principal resort on the Mediterranean is the romantic port of Antalya with its majestic coastline of beaches and rocky coves to which the towering Toros Mountains provide a magnificent backdrop. Antalya is an attractive city with shady palm tree boulevards, an award-winning marina, and a picturesque old quarter called Kaleici, with narrow winding streets and quaint wooden houses all within the ancient city walls.

Since its founding in the second century B.C. by Attalus II, Antalya has had an eventful history. The Romans and the Seljuks occupied the city before it came under Ottoman rule. In the city center is the Yili Minareli Mosque, built by the Seljuk Sultan Alaeddin Keykubad in the 13th century. This elegant fluted minaret has become the symbol of the city.

In the Kaleici, you will find the theological school of Karatay Medrese, also from the 13th century, with stone carvings on

the portals that are excellent examples of Seljuk art. Magnificent mosques from the 16th and 18th centuries are also found throughout the city.

A closer look at the rich history of Antalya can be found in the beautiful new Archeological Museum. It provides a rare walk through history, with remains from the Paleolithic Age to Ottoman times. The Ataturk Museum displays objects used by Ataturk, founder of the Turkish Republic.

The Antalya Marina and Leisure Center, winner of several awards for its beautiful landscaping, is one of the liveliest ports on the coast. The awards are all well deserved, thanks to the beautiful arrangements of plants, flowers and trees in an extraordinary blend of old and new.

The center harbors not only yachts and fishing boats but also colorful relaxing restaurants and friendly cafes where you can bask in the sunshine or stay cool in the shade and look out over this incredibly romantic and picturesque harbor.

Or sail in the morning and sip coffee or *roki* (pronounced *rou-ko*), a Turkish aperitif, in the afternoon. Sunset views are particularly beautiful from this ancient marina with its old city walls lit up majestically at night, creating an atmosphere of antiquity and sentiment.

Mark White is an American journalist based in Berlin who has traveled extensively throughout Western Europe and the Middle East during the past 20 years. He was program director/chief programming for ARD Berlin Radio/TV until his retirement in 1988.

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If you go to Antalya

During our last trip to Turkey, we stayed at the Sheraton Voyager Hotel, overlooking a pebbled beach a few miles west of Antalya. It was an excellent vacation hotel, a five-star, deluxe, fully air-conditioned hotel managed with American know-how and Turkish hospitality.

The hotel is built around a nine-story atrium with a bank of elevators coursing up and down one side. Twenty-four-hour room service is only one of the many services available in spacious rooms with new furniture, modern bathrooms, and satellite TV with several English-language stations, a few familiar German ones and some national channels. Our balcony provided an inspiring view of both sea and mountains.

The hotel's Turkish cuisine was at its finest, from luscious lamb to sizzling steaks to locally

caught fish. Special themed nights featured buffets from not only Turkey but also the Far East, Rome and the Mediterranean. A fisherman's Night and barbecue satisfied our hearty appetites. Musicians at some of these outdoor feasts provided the background for Turkish belly-dancers.

The Sheraton has its own yacht for cool sailing along the Turkish coast with lunch on board and a waiter service from the hotel's kitchen.

Other amenities included outdoor and indoor pools; exercise equipment; squash courts, Turkish baths and a jacuzzi; an English-speaking language doctor; waitresses on roller skates taking orders around the pool; a disco called the Cotton Club; and a casino with roulette, blackjack, poker and slots, in full swing throughout almost all the night.

Tours to interesting sights were available daily, and taxis



Courtesy of Turkish Tourist Office

The Yivi Minare (Fluted Minaret), has become a symbol of Antalya, Turkey's principal resort.

with reasonable fares waited at the hotel for shopping trips to the bazaars in Antalya or anywhere else you wish to go.

Much of the hotel staff spoke English or made an attempt to do so, while many of the taxi drivers spoke German, having lived

in Germany for many years.

I found the average Turkish person to be sympathetic toward Americans. Maybe it's because they all claim to have relatives in the States.

Unlike with other currencies, the U.S. dollar remains fairly

strong against the Turkish lira and you can find good exchange rates at the airport or hotel.

A passport and visa are required for Americans and can be obtained at Turkish border crossings for \$20. Visas had cost \$100 but were reduced to their current level in April.

— MARK WHITE

CYPRUS, FROM PAGE 19

ruled by the British and remains popular with them as both a holiday getaway and a place to get glasses faster and for far less than in Britain.

Businesses clustered around the harbor advertise water sports, including fishing, snorkeling, daylong cruises, self-drive speedboats and yacht rentals. The town's beach is a strip of sand and rocks that runs from the city center out to the large hotels on its outskirts. Though small, it is popular — and it is a blue flag beach, meaning it meets EU standards for safety, cleanliness and environmental concerns.

Even in November, there were people in the water, calling out to one another during their morning swim. I tested the water and it is warm enough for a relaxing float — though a little cool when you get out.

Warmth is not a problem during the summer, when temperatures regularly top 100 degrees. People often leave the coast to head into the Troödos Mountains just to cool off. The drop in temperature can be quite significant — even in the off season. We took a daylong bus trip into the mountains and by the time we reached the top of the mountain, about 6,500 feet high, there was enough snow on the switchback roadway to make us glad we were not driving ourselves.

Our trip took us past the site believed to be the birthplace of Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love. She was said to have risen from the foam of the ocean, near a spot marked by three rocks. Alexia Christodoulou, our tour guide, told us that anyone who swims around the rocks three times at midnight on a night with



PHOTOS BY JOHN TAYLOR/Stars and Stripes

The Kykkos Monastery is a grand structure with paintings, frescoes, statues and other treasures available for the public to see. Only a handful of monks live in the monastery, and supposedly visitors caught without a place to stay are still put up for the night.

a full moon will be young forever.

For proof, she pointed to the bus driver, who appeared to be in his mid-30s.

"Our driver swam around the rocks, and look at him," she said. "No one would believe he is over 200 years old."

The scenery changed from dry, rocky terrain to green hills and pine trees as the bus climbed into the mountains past a refugee village that Christodoulou told us the local Greeks were

preserving for the Turks who had been forced to leave — even though, she claimed, the Turks were not doing the same on the other end of the island.

The highlight of the trip was a stop at the Kykkos Monastery. Although the current building dates from 1830 or so, its history dates to the 11th century when an icon of the Virgin Mary was brought to the site of the monastery as atonement for the sins of a Byzantine official. The icon was said to have been painted

by St. Luke, and visitors still come to see it — or actually a copy of it because the original is too valuable to be left out.

The monastery's chapel is a glittering room of gold and blue, filled with paintings, statues and metal work. Monks and monastery employees make sure visitors kept moving, and take no pictures. But outside of this room, visitors are free to wander the grounds and the multistoried building, examining its rooms, mosaics, frescoes and other signs of wealth.



A mosaic at the monastery is a copy of the icon of the Virgin Mary, which the monastery was built to hold. The original is stored away safely, but supplicants still touch the copy in hopes of having their wishes granted.

Despite its location between Turkey and Greece, Cyprus is not particularly cheap. And this is not true for just Americans trying to squeeze the most out of the wobbly dollar. Our hotel had mainly Germans and Britons, and they agreed prices were steeper than expected.

One British couple told us they had been coming to Cyprus for about 20 years — this was their third trip this year alone — and that prices just kept going up, even relative to the British pound and during the off-season.

But they said their approach was to buy Cyprus pounds in advance and not think about prices while on holiday.

With so much to enjoy, they said, why ruin things by worrying about the cost?

John Taylor is assistant European Desk editor at Stripes' offices in Griesheim, Germany. Write him at: taylorj@mail.estripes.com.

If you go to Cyprus

• We went to Cyprus for seven days in November on a package from TUI, a German tourist operator. We stayed at the Hotel Porto Pafos, which we selected because it was in town and within walking distance to everything we needed. The price for two was 992 euros (about \$1,325), which included flight from Frankfurt to Munich to the Paphos airport, transportation to and from the hotel and breakfast.

It also included a deduction for booking early, and travel insurance, and an extra 40 euros each for a room with a view of the sea (recommended since the view of a busy street or a Pizza Hut.)

It did not include use of the hotel's whirlpool or sauna or a television; all were available for an additional fee. The electrical outlets take the British-style plugs, which we did not have but adapters were available for a refundable 2-pound deposit at

the hotel desk.

The Cyprus pound was worth about \$2.30 while we were there. Most banks offered about the same rate, although we found one shop that offered slightly better and charged no commission. Some stores accept euros, pound sterling and dollars, but



PETER JAEGER/Stars and Stripes

watch their rates; they generally are not very good. For those who have gotten used to dealing with euros, going back to exchanging money was a real pain.

• Tickets for the Troodos bus tour, conducted by the Cyprus Tourist Office, can be purchased from various agents around



The job of the pelican sitting outside the Pelican Inn and Restaurant in Paphos, Cyprus, is to draw a crowd, which a host tries to usher inside.

Cyprus' food: fresh and filling

The food on Cyprus, as might be expected, is similar to Greek and Turkish cuisine, with lots of grilled seafood, lamb, a beef-and-onion stew called *stifado*, and locally grown fruits and vegetables.

But it also has one specialty that appears to be unique to the island, and anyone visiting should be sure to try it. A *meze* is a multicourse meal made up of small dishes, a meal of all appetizers that will leave you with a variety of tastes and a full stomach.

It can start with samples of *tzatziki*; hummus; tahini; potato salad; beet; and *terensalata*, a fish roe dip, with bread and olives. Next might come some small meatballs, sausages and

chunks of pork in a wine sauce. It is followed by fish dishes — cod, octopus, crab and calamari rings — and then perhaps a kebab or sizzling slices of chicken or beef. The meal is finished with fruit — apples, pears, grapes — and if you are lucky and the owner likes you, a complimentary Cyprus brandy.

The key is to go easy on the bread and dip, eat slowly and don't worry if you cannot finish everything.

Most restaurants will have meat, fish and mixed mezes. They start at about 6.50 Cyprus pounds (about \$15), depending on how many courses are served.

— JOHN TAYLOR



PHOTOS BY JOHN TAYLOR/Stars and Stripes

Art guarding the harbor of Paphos offers a good view of fishing boats, tour ships and pleasure vessels — some of them available for rent by individuals. Even in the off-season, it is a busy place.

town. We bought ours from Hercules Travel at the harbor for 9 pounds each. Children's tickets are 5 pounds. The English-language tour goes twice a week; for those who can't make it those days, there is also a German and English tour, but it costs 10 pounds. The bus picks up passengers at their hotel.

• Our guidebook recommended getting away from the seafront to find better restaurants, and for the most part, that was good advice. However, our first night I had grilled octopus at the Pelican Inn Restaurant on the harbor — it has a pelican and aggressive host out front to attract customers — and it was good.

Several restaurants were closed for the season and others were closing soon. We ate mezes at a restaurant called Mother's run by a friendly waiter — we saw no sign of anyone's mom — but when we returned a few days later, it was closed. It is in a little alcove just off Apostolos Pavlou. Just across from it is Hondros, which was advertised as the oldest restaurant in Paphos, but it must have updated its menu and prices and was not as pleasant.

Argo restaurant, at Pafos Afroditi in the pedestrian area but a little ways from the main action, had several traditional dishes — including moussaka and *stifado*, a type of beef stew — and interesting conversation. Its owner had been uprooted by the Turkish occupation, and while he was hesitant to discuss it in detail, he did turn the tables on us and ask about the war in Iraq (he was against it).

Many of the restaurants on the main street serve British food, advertising English breakfast and gammon steaks. We avoided them, except for once when I wanted grilled sardines. It was not worth it.

Most dinners, which we ate along with a carafe of house wine, cost between 15 and 20 pounds for two, not really expensive but not cheap if you are eating out every night for a



The Rose Pub is many of the bars offering imported beers and large-screen televisions turned to British sports. A pint of Guinness costs 2.50 Cyprus pounds, about \$6.

week. Jackie Leverett, a civilian worker at Rhein-Main Air Base in Germany, who was spending two weeks with his wife at our hotel, said they took some of the bite out of food costs by occasionally eating at the nearby Pizza Hut or McDonald's. There were also a few sandwich shops in the area.

In addition to all the restaurants advertising British specials, there were several pubs and bars offering British soccer and rugby on large-screen TVs, sometimes blasting the games to the street outside. We went to Rose Pub a couple of times because it offered free popcorn and cocktail samples along with its soccer and imported beers for 2.50 a glass.

• There is an Internet cafe called Maroushia just off the main street next to a store that sells Russian stacking dolls. It is open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. and charges 1 pound for 30 minutes. It has another branch in Anafos. There were signs for a couple of other Internet cafes in the pedestrian area, but they were closed during our stay.

• We used the Lonely Planet guidebook to Cyprus, found its information and recommendations accurate and to our liking. There is a Cyprus Tourist Office near the main square in Anafos at Gladstones 3. More info is at www.cypustravel.com

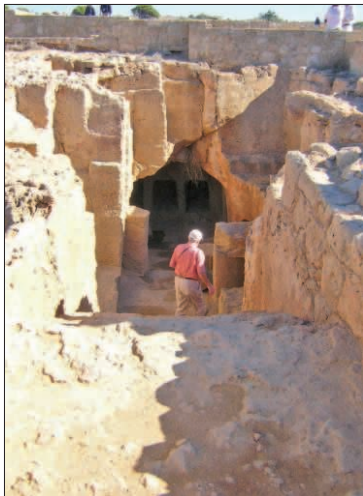
— JOHN TAYLOR



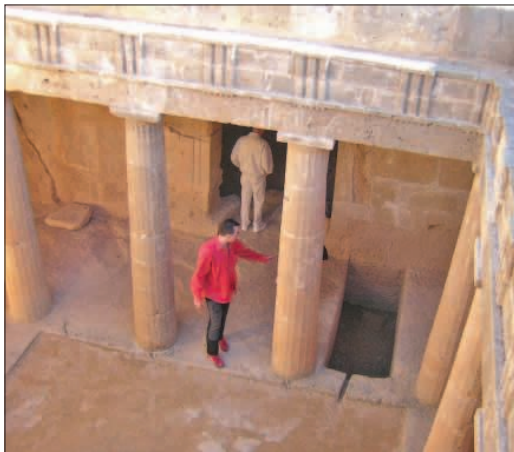
Visitors cross to a section of the Tombs of the Kings, burial chambers cut into the rocks near a quiet bay just outside of Paphos, Cyprus.



Sections of stone were carved out for entombing wealthy citizens of Nea Pafos. The chambers were connected by underground tunnels that can be explored today.



A visitor steps down toward one of the simpler tombs at the Tombs of the Kings. Visitors are free to explore the seven tombs discovered so far.



Some sections of the Tombs of the Kings, located about two miles from Nea Pafos, had grand entrances lined by columns and opening into atriums. The burial chambers fanned out from the common square. The probably duplicated the homes and temples of those living in Alexandria under the Ptolemies' dynasty.

Glimpses of

Mosaics and tombs hint at life

BY JOHN TAYLOR

Stars and Stripes

At one time, Paphos was the most important town on Cyprus. It was a sprawling settlement, circled by walls and known as Nea Pafos, or New Pafos — old Pafos, home to the Sanctuary of Aphrodite, was several miles away. It became the island's center of political and economic power.

Founded in the fourth century B.C., the town was part of the Ptolemies' dynasty, which ruled the region from its base in Alexandria, now in Egypt. Later it was given to the Romans, who built opulent villas there and gave the current town its greatest attraction.

The mosaics of Pafos, found inside the villas, were believed to have been created in the second and third centuries. An earthquake in the fourth century began the town's decline and enemy raids continued it. Power shifted to other cities and much of the city's glories disappeared.

Then in 1962, a farmer working in fields near Paphos uncovered one of the old mosaics. Officials were called and archaeologists

IF YOU GO

• **The Pafos mosaics** are open daily except Christmas, New Year's Day and Easter. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. October through March, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. April, May and September, and 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. June through August. Admission is 1.50 Cyprus pounds (about \$3.40); there is no charge on Sundays for European Union citizens and, at least until the spring, everybody else. Allow two hours to see the mosaics, more if you want to see the ruins from town, fare is about .80 pounds.

— JOHN TAYLOR

from Poland and Cyprus began digging around the site. What they discovered led to Nea Pafos becoming a part of the World Cultural Heritage List of UNESCO in 1981.

So far, archaeologists have uncovered the ruins of at least three villas with magnificent mosaics. The mosaics are depictions of mythological characters, scenes from everyday life and elaborate geometric designs, all made from small colored stones. They served as both the floors and decorations in the grand Roman villas.

One of the most impressive mosaics is at the Villa of the Minotaur. It is a large circular scene depicting the minotaur treading a few stones in the center has its detailed and intricate design nearly intact. This mosaic in the former villa was uncovered, crisscrossed by walks and borders so visitors get a good view. The area is large that some of the mosaics are left unprotected, but visitors actually walk on the

It is said the mosaics are



PHOTOS BY JOHN TAYLOR/Stars and Stripes

A detail from the border of one of the mosaics in the Villa of Theseus shows how well the work has stood up through the centuries.

f antiquity

and death in early Cyprus

seen after a light shower or with water sprinkled on them to bring out the color. We saw them under an overcast but dry sky and were still impressed, but would have loved to see them shine.

A second cluster of mosaics is at the House of Orpheus, which is still under work. Its centerpiece is a scene of Orpheus playing his lyre for the animals surrounding him, their coats and muscles shown in exacting detail.

The House of Dionysus has been enclosed by walls and a roof and contains the largest collections of mosaics. It is named after a scene in the main room that shows Dionysus with Icarus, but other well-preserved mosaics include scenes from nature, portraits of humans and close-ups of animals, including a peacock in all its glory.

There is more to Nea Pafos than its mosaics. It also includes the ruins of a Roman agora and a theater, rebuilt in the 1970s. And about two miles away is an underground network of burial chambers that may be just as impressive as the mosaics.

The site is called the Tombs of the Kings, although it is doubtful kings were buried there. Archaeologists

believe they probably were used to bury wealthy citizens during the time the city was part of the Ptolemies' dynasty.

The personal items that it was believed the dead were buried with are long gone, but the burial chambers themselves are a treasure. They are cut into the hills and rocks overlooking a quiet bay. Some hold interconnected passageways with hollowed-out niches where the bodies were entombed. Many of the winding passages dead-end into rock, but others can be followed from end to end, twisting into others in a subterranean maze.

And while some are simple openings, others are grand entrances with carefully cut steps leading into open areas supported by columns and arches. Ancient Egyptians believed tombs for the dead should resemble houses for the living, and historians say the underground monuments copy the architectural style of Alexandria at the time, complete with a central atrium and carved facades that mimic a temple.

The fenced-in burial ground is extensive and bumps up against modern hotels and a busy street. It is possible there are more tombs still to be discovered.



The Villa of Theseus is named for the large, round mosaic above, which shows Theseus fighting the Minotaur. It is well preserved, especially in its outer border.

The wooden walkways at left take visitors over and around the extensive mosaics, which were first discovered by a farmer working in the fields near Paphos.

Ski Clubs & Events

COMPILED BY
KAREN BABURRY
Stars and Stripes

Add, correct or update a listing by sending information by e-mail to: travel@mail.strips.es.osd.mil or sending a fax to (+49) (0) 6155-601-416.

Clubs

AVIANO SKI CLUB

Area: Northern Italy
Web site: www.avianoskiclub.com
Telephone: 0434 366 185 (Gloria Leonarduzzi, Vice President)
Membership fees: \$15 adults, \$5 children 7-17, under 6 free.
Trips: March 11-13, Molitor Glacier, Austria, \$120.

GERMANY

FRANKFURT INTERNATIONAL SKI CLUB

Telephone: 069-9720-3669
E-mail: info@fiscweb.org
Web site: www.fiscweb.org
Address: c/o Trevor Wolf, CMC 453, Box 939, APO AE 09074
Membership fees: 20 euros singles, 30 euros families.
Meetings: 7 p.m. every other Wednesday at The Fox and The Fiddle Pub and Music Hall, Bleichstrasse 46, Frankfurt.

Trips: March 4-6, Disentis/Sedrun, Switzerland, 185 euros; **March 10-13**, Chamonix, France, 295 euros; **March 11-13**, Flims-Lax, Switzerland, 195 euros; **March 18-20**, Klosters, Switzerland, 245 euros; **March 24-28**, St. Moritz, Switzerland, 340 euros; **March 26-April 2**, Val Thorens, France, 485 euros; **April 1-3**, St. Anton, Austria, 195 euros; **April 8-10**, Lech, Austria, 205 euros; **April 14-17**, Zermatt, Switzerland, 235 euros; **April 28-May 1**, Ischgl, Austria, 270 euros; **June 16-19**, Chiemsee, Germany, 285 euros; **July 1-4**, Sächsisches Schweiz, Germany, 265 euros. These are first sign-up prices; prices then increase by 10 euros.

GRAFENWÖHR SKI AND SNOWBOARD CLUB

Telephone: DSN 476-1560, or civilian 0964-183150
E-mail: GRAFSKICLUB@hotmail.com

Membership fees: \$20/15 euros
Meetings: 7 p.m. on first and third Thursdays of each month in Italian Restaurant Da Lino in Grafenwöhr.

TRIPS: MARCH 18-20

Zell am See, Austria, price TBA.

HEIDELBERG INTERNATIONAL SKI CLUB

Telephone: 06202-577-8422 or 06201-57-5352, or DSN 370-5352
E-mail: president@heidelberg.ski.com

Web site: www.heidelberg.ski.com
Address: CMC 419 Box 1909, APO AE 09102 or Postfach 105743, 69115 Heidelberg

Membership fees: \$30 for adults.
Meetings: 7 p.m. every other Wednesday at Hotel Zagreb in Schwezingen.

Trips: March 4-6, Zell am See, Austria, 190 euros; **March 18-20**,



Cross-country skiers head through a deep layer of snow on the mountain Schauland in the Black Forest near Freiburg, southern Germany, last week.

Davos/Klosters, Switzerland, 245 euros; **March 19-26**, Tignes, France, 785 euros; **April 1-3**, Engelberg, Switzerland, 285 euros; **April 8-10**, Arberg, 210 euros; **April 9-16**, Val Thorens, France, (200-340 euros); **April 29-May 1**, Ischgl (220 euros); **May 27-30**, Bodensee (290 euros).

KAISERSLAUTERN SKI CLUB

Telephone: 06303-4751
E-mail: carperb@msn.com
Web site: www.ktownskiclub.com
Address: Bob Carper, PSC 10, Box 825, APO AE 09142
Meetings: 7 p.m. on first and third Wednesday of the month at Ka-zaba Ski Club, Vogelweh.

Trips: March 18-20, Lenzerheide, Switzerland, 210 euros; **March 19-20**, Verbier, Switzerland, 150 euros; **April 22-24**, Lech, Austria, 215 euros.

LABER SKI CLUB

Area: Southern Germany, Austria and northern Italy
Telephone: C/F 08822 9481 3100, DSN 440-2366

E-mail: President Tim Payne at Payne.timothy@natoschool.nato.int

Web site: www.natoschool.nato.int, select "NATO School Lodge & Community Club"

Address: NATO Recreation Center, Laber Ski Club, Unit 24503, APO AE 09172

Trips: March 6, Seefeld, Austria; **March 12**, Ischgl, Austria; **March 19-20**, Passo Pordoi, Italy; **April 2**, Zugspitze, Germany.

MANNHEIM INTERNATIONAL SKI CLUB

Area: Mannheim
Telephone: Janet-Anne Boykin at 06206-75268
E-mail: boykinjanj@hotmail.com

Web site: <http://ski.no-ip.info>

Membership fees: \$25 for singles, \$35 for families.

Meetings: Viersheim Tennis Club, March 3, 17, and 31, April 21.
Trips: March 4-6, Lech/Zurs/St. Anton, Austria, 130 euros; **March 11-13**, Montafon, Austria, 130 euros; **March 18-20**, Verbier, Switzerland, 140 euros; **April 9-16**, Meribel, France, price TBA.

PATCH SKI CLUB

Area: Stuttgart
Telephone: DSN 430-5789
E-mail: info@psc-ski.org and klineet@eucom.mil
Web site: www.patchskiclub.org
Address: CMC 480, Box 198, APO AE 09128

Membership fees: \$30 singles, \$45 families.

Meetings: Patch Community Club at 7 p.m. Meeting dates: March 2, 16 and 30, April 20 and May 4 & 21.

Trips: March 4-6, Gstaad, Switzerland, 200 euros; **March 17-20**, Chamonix, France, 390 euros; **April 7-10**, St. Moritz, Switzerland, April 7-10, April 9-16, Val Thorens, France, 320 euros; **April 29-May 1**, Ischgl, Austria, 220 euros; **May 27-30**, Lermoos, Austria, 200 euros; **May 27-30**, Sieg Gföhl, Austria, 260 euros.

TANNENBAUM SKI CLUB

Area: Kaiserslautern Military Community, Eifel, Baumholder, Mannheim regions, Rheinland-Pfalz and Spangdahlem

E-mail: David Hanavan, dave@tannenbaumskiclub.com
Telephone: 06301-3478

Web address: www.tannenbaumskiclub.com
Address: c/o Rick Kane, Im Amstel 2, 67697 Otterberg, Germany

Membership fees: \$35 for singles, \$70 for families.

Meetings: First and third Wednes-

days of the month at 7:30 p.m. in Landstuhl Combined Community Club.

Trips: March 4-6, Jungfrau, Switzerland, 160 euros; **March 11-13**, Flims-Lax, 185 euros; **April 1-3**, Engelberg, Switzerland, 200 euros; **April 8-10**, St. Anton, Austria, 165 euros; **April 29-May 1**, Ischgl, Austria, 205 euros.

WESTPFALZ INTERNATIONAL SKI CLUB

Area: Kaiserslautern Military Community
Web site: www.westpfalzskiclub.org
Telephone: 06371-598537

E-mail: kdsowell@interquest.com
Address: PSC 1, Box 611, APO AE 09009

Meetings: 7 p.m. every other Wednesday at The Kneller Haus, Einsiedlerhof.

Trips: March 6-12, St. Veit, Austria, 390 euros, including ski school; **March 11-13**, Zell am See, Austria, 220 euros; **April 8-10**, Lech, Austria, 220 euros; **April 29-May 1**, Ischgl, Austria, 215 euros.

WÜRZBURG INTERNATIONAL SKI CLUB

Telephone: 0932 1924425
E-mail: wsiclub@hotmail.com

Web site: www.wsiclub.org
Address: WISC, CMC 475, Box 1, APO AE 09036

Membership fees: 25 euros for singles, 40 euros for families.

Meetings: 8 p.m. on first and third Wednesdays of the month at Zum Kirschenbaum Gasthaus on Würzburgstr. 18 in Rotterdorf.

Check Web site for dates, directions and maps.
Trips: March 4-6, Jungfrau, Switzerland, 190 euros; **March 14-20**, St. Moritz, Switzerland, 400 euros; **April 29-May 1**, Ischgl, Austria,

230 euros; **May 13-15**, Landeck, Austria, price TBA; **May 28-31**, St. Veit, Austria, price TBA.

Outdoor Recreation

ITALY

VICENZA OUTDOOR RECREATION: March 5 and 26, Obergegn, Italy; **March 12 and April 2**, San Martino, Italy; **March 19**, Alleghe, Italy. Sign up the Sunday before: DSN 634-7453.

KAISERSLAUTERN OUTDOOR RECREATION: Feb. 26, express to Garmisch, Germany, \$55 adults, \$45 children; **March 2 and 18**, express to Feldberg, Germany, \$45 adults, \$35 children; **March 4-6**, Garmisch, Germany, \$189; **March 5 and 26**, express to St. Anton, Austria, \$55 adults, \$45 children; **March 11-13**, Lauterbrunnen, Switzerland, \$169; **March 12 and 23**, express to Engelberg, Switzerland, \$55 adults, \$45 children; **March 17-20**, Zermatt, Switzerland, \$259; **March 19**, express to Jungfrau, Switzerland, \$55 adults, \$45 children; **March 25-27**, Flims-Lax, Switzerland, \$199. DSN 489-7751 or CIV 0631-536-7751.

KATTERBACH OUTDOOR RECREATION: March 5, Zugspitze Glacier, \$30 for transportation and ski equipment; **March 18-20**, weekend ski in Austria, \$280 for transportation, ski equipment, two lift tickets, DSN 687-3235 or CIV 08902-83-2225.

MANNHEIM OUTDOOR RECREATION: Feb. 26, March 12 and 23, Engelberg, Switzerland, \$55 adults, \$45 children; **March 5 and 19**, Feldberg, Germany, \$35 plus lift; **March 19**, teen trip to Feldberg (\$25 plus lift). MOF's ski swap runs now to April 1, bring in equipment you no longer use or just come in and browse. DSN 381-7215 or 381-7232, CIV 0621-730-7215 or 0621-730-7232.

NATO SCHOOL RECREATION CENTRE: Feb. 26-27, beginner snowboarding lessons, 28 euros, lift 13 euros. Adult (ages 16 and up) lessons include 1.5 days of beginner instruction. C/F 08822-9481-3102; Web site: www.natoschool.nato.int

SPANGDAHLEM OUTDOOR RECREATION: March 11-13, St. Anton, Switzerland, \$35; **March 5, 12, and 19** Black Forest (Feldberg), \$45; **March 9 and 23**, ski maintenance clinic; **March 11-13**, ski to the U.S. Forestry and Snowboard Championship in Garmisch; **March 18-20**, heli-skiing in Switzerland; **March 19-20**, Feldberg, Germany, \$175. Call DSN 357-5760 (Weissen Army Airfield) or DSN 334-5818 (Anderson Barracks, Dextheim).

Tours/Outdoors

BY KAREN BRADBURY
Stars and Stripes

Send listings via e-mail at least two weeks ahead of the desired publication date to travel@mail.estrps.odm.mil. Questions, call (+49) (0) 6155-60-268.

GERMANY

GIESSEN-284TH BSB OUTDOOR RECREATION: March 5. Wachsbad ceramic factory and chicken farm restaurant, \$20 adults, \$15 children 4-11, \$5 under 3; **March 12.** Garrison overnight, \$139/69; **March 12.** Cologne, \$25/20/10; **March 19.** Dachau Concentration Camp and BMW Museum, \$49/39/19; **March 26.** Rothenburg tour, \$25/20/10. Call DSN 443-8282/8207 or CIV 0641-402-8202/8207.

HANAU OUTDOOR RECREATION AND LEISURE TRAVEL: March 12-13. Amsterdam night life trip, adults 18 and older only, \$129. Call DSN 322-6015, CIV 06183-51-6015.

KAISERSLAUTERN OUTDOOR RECREATION: Feb. 26.

Rothenburg, Germany vols: **March 4-6.** Paris with optional cycling tour, prices start at \$179; **March 11.** after-work spa night, \$35; **March 17-20.** Prague, prices start at \$145; **March 21-23.** fishing, \$35. Call DSN 489-7715 or CIV 0631-536-7751.

KATTEBACH OUTDOOR RECREATION: March 26. crystal shopping in Karlovy Vary, Czech Republic, \$45, passport required. "One-day-wonders" offer free transportation. Upcoming schedule: **March 10.** Wertheim outlet mall, **March 23.** IKEA shopping in Furtwangen, **March 31.** Fortress Marienberg in Würzburg. Advance sign-up required. Call DSN 467-3225 or CIV 09802-83-3225.

MANNHEIM OUTDOOR RECREATION: March 12 and 26, April 15 and 30. paintball play days, ODR paintball field, \$15 with own equipment; \$20 with ODR equipment; **April 23.** indoor climbing wall in Mannheim; **April 24.** Europa Amusement Park, \$30 for bus, plus park admission fee of 26 euros adults, 16 euros children 4-11. Call DSN 381-7215/7232 or CIV 0671-7215/7232.

RAMSTEIN GOLF RITZ DESTINATIONS UNLIMITED: Feb. 27, March 2, 5, 10, 13, 17, 20, 23, 26, and April 3. Rhine castles cruise and wine tasting, \$89; **March 5.** Bath and Spa treatment in a 19th-century doctor's prison in Ridesheim, including dinner and beverages, \$89, adults only; **March 11-13.** Prague and Karlovy Vary, one hotel night downtown with three meals and city tour, \$189; **March 19.** tour of Cochem Castle and knight's dinner, \$89; **March 19-20.** Brussels and Bruges with overnight in downtown hotel city tours; **March 12.** "Mad" King Ludwig's Neuschwanstein and Linderhof castles with stop at Wieschach chateau, \$89.

Flight tours from Frankfurt: **March 13-20.** Moscow and St. Petersburg, 1049 euros (flight,



The official logo of the city of Paris' bid for the 2012 Olympics glows on the front of the National Assembly in Paris. In the foreground is the Pont de la Concorde, which links the Place de la Concorde, on the right bank of the Seine, to the Quai d'Orsay, on the left bank.

hotels, overnight train, admissions, tours and lunches): **April 8-15.** Egypt, 1189 euros (flight, hotels, tours, admissions, three-day Nile cruise); **April 9-16.** Beijing and Xian, China, including Great Wall, Forbidden City, Xi'an's Terra Cotta Warriors, 1399 euros for flight, tours, admissions, many meals; **June 23-July 3.** South Africa, including Kruger Park, Cape Town, flights, tours, admissions and many meals, \$199 euros; **Oct. 23-31.** Moscow and St. Petersburg, 999 euros (flight, hotels, tours, admissions, tours, and lunches); **Nov. 5-12.** The Golden Ring of Moscow, tours of ancient Russian towns, 1099 euros (flight, hotels, overnight train, admissions and 6 days of tours with full pension).

For all tours, contact DSN 480-6330/489-7064/496-7719, or visit www.RTTTtravel.com.

WIESBADEN OUTDOOR RECREATION: March 1. rock climbing in Nieder Olf; **March 6.** ice skating in Frankfurt; **March 6 and 19.** fishing in Limburg; **March 8, 22, and 29.** bouldering in Nieder Olf; **March 10, 13, 17, 24 and 31.** swimming in Frankfurt; **March 27.** trout fishing in Limburg. Call DSN 337-5760 (Wiesbaden Airfield) or DSN 334-5818 (Anderson Barracks, Dexheim).

USO KAIERSLAUTERN: **March 3.** German train orientation and trip to Heidelberg, \$25; **March 5.** city tour and shopping in Lucerne, Switzerland, \$89 adult, \$79 child; **March 5.** Military Heritage Tour, Nuremberg and the Third Reich, \$69; **March 5.** Easter egg market in Meiselsdorf, Ivory museum and count's castle, \$89 adult, \$79 child; **March 5.** Paris city tour, \$99 adults, \$95 children; **March 5.** Trier city tour, \$49 adults, \$45 child; **March 12.** Cochem Castle tour and wine tasting, \$55 adult, \$45 child; **March 12.** German train orientation and trip to Speyer with

city tour, Technik Museum and IMAX Theater, \$39 adult, \$35 child; **March 12.** Maasricht, Holland, city tour, \$59 adults, \$55 child; **March 20.** theatre in Frankfurt, "The Complete History of America (Abridged)," \$59; **April 7-11.** two nights in London, \$449 adults, \$429 children, single supplement \$180; **April 12-17.** Italian Spring Film: Rome, Pompeii, Sorrento, Capri, Pisa and Florence, \$699 adults, \$679 children, single supplement \$155; **April 23-24.** Holland overnight including Keukenhof Gardens, flower parade and Delft, \$249 adults, \$229 children, single supplement \$35; **Conat the USO at Vogelweh, DSN 489-6033, CIV 0631-536-6033; Ramstein DSN 480-6326, CIV 0631-42623; Landstuhl DSN 486-8240, CIV 0631-63463; Kleber Kaserne, DSN 483-7397, CIV 0631-46237; Pulaski Barracks, DSN 489-7233, CIV 0631-536-7233, Tours Office phone: DSN 489-7640, CIV 0631-536-7640.**

USO RHEIN-NECKAR (Darmstadt-Heidelberg-Mannheim): **March 1.** Landenberg orientation, \$10; **March 6.** Michelstadt Easter egg market, \$29; **March 8.** Worms orientation by train, \$10; **March 12.** CeBIT Expo in Hannover (telecommunications trade-show), \$80; **March 12.** Strasbourg sightseeing, \$49; **March 15.** Weinheim orientation, \$10; **March 18.** Evell's Wellness Spa with body draining wrap, \$29 transportation, 105 euros for procedure; **March 19.** Paris express, \$84 adults, \$60 child; under 11;

March 20. Lusenpark, \$5; **March 20.** Caracalla Therme in Baden-Baden; \$39; **March 24-29.** Rome for Easter including City tour of Florence, Rome's Vatican Museum, Sistine Chapel, St. Peter's

Basilica, The Forum and Coliseum, and visit to Pisa, \$549 adults, \$529 children includes bus and guided tour, single supplement \$100. Contact USO Darmstadt at DSN 348-7918; USO Heidelberg at DSN 370-7924; or USO Mannheim at DSN 385-3195.

Italy

USO NAPLES: April 9-15. Greece tour by bus with visits to Athens, Ioannina, Metecora, Delphi, Corinth, Epidaurus and Mycenae; adults \$98 euros; May 20-26, Egypt, trip TBA. One-day tours are also available. Call DSN 626-5713 or visit www.uso.org/naples.

USO ROME offers regular tours, including: Roman Holiday, a four-day tour with three nights in a three-star hotel; **Sundays through Wednesdays** includes four meals and free guided tours; \$439 per person with discounts available; **Thursday** is a papal audience, **every Wednesday** (free); Super City Tour, featuring the Pantheon, Trevi Fountain and Spanish Steps, **two days a week;** Romawalk, a three-hour walking tour, **two times a week;** a complete view of Vatican City, **six days a week;** Ancient Rome (Capitol Hill, Roman Forum, Colosseum, Basilica of St. Paul's), **seven days a week;** Christian Rome catacombs, **seven days a week;** Illuminated Rome (with and without dinner), **seven days a week;** Naples, Capri and Sorrento day tour, **every day;** Tivoli day tour, **four times a week.** Call (+39) (0) 6-686-4232 for more info. Or check www.uso.it for prices and times.

Let's Go

Dan Brown's Rome

Fans of Dan Brown's new novel, "Angels and Demons," might want to follow in the footsteps of the main characters across Rome and follow mysterious clues on a tour led by June Hager May 24 to 31.

Hager has just returned to the United States after spending 20 years in Rome reporting on Vatican politics and culture.

The tour follows the trail of Baroque art and ancient symbols. Hager will explain the sites in the context of imperial Rome, early Christian Rome, Papal Rome and modern Rome. The excursions will take place in the mornings, leaving the afternoons free for personal exploration.

The cost is \$1,696 per person, double occupancy, and includes seven nights' hotels, breakfasts, morning walks and transfers from airport. Contact GoToRome at telephone (530) 758-4510, (916) 448-1801, (800) 255-9677, or e-mail Karen@davisvilletravel.com. The Web site is www.GoToRome.com.

Go to China

Head east April 9 to 16 on a tour to Beijing and Xian, China, with Jet Force 4 with Service's RTT. Check out the Forbidden City, climb the Great Wall and look over the thousand

Terra Cotta Warriors. Cost is \$1,399 euros per person, double occupancy, and includes round-trip flight from Frankfurt, travel to the Forbidden City and around Beijing, a flight to Xian and a tour of the Terra Cotta Warriors excavation and another flight to Beijing.

For details, contact RTT at DSN 480-6330 or civilian (+49) (0) 671-463-650 or check the Web at www.RTTTTravel.com.

Intuitive music

If you have an interest in an "existential contact with music," you might be interested in the Klang Visionen (Sound Visions) series of concerts at the St. Maternus church in Köln. It runs March 11 to 13.

International musicians from different traditions will perform solos and with others. According to the Web site, the music will be "intuitive, vital, experimental and spontaneous." Among the performers are Irish singer Noinn Ni Rian, Tunisian singer and oud player Dhafer Youssef, German drummer Christian Thome and British sax player Evan Parker, Italian pianist Alexander Comisso, German drummer Christian Thome and German trumpet player Markus Stockhausen.

The Köln Tourist Board is offering a ticket for the concert that must be booked by March 1. It begins at 159 euros per person, double occupancy, and includes two nights' hotel, breakfasts, ticket to the concert and a Köln welcome card. AMEROPA also is offering packages that include train transportation.

For details, call (+49) (0) 221-221 30 400. The Web site is <http://boettje@koelntourismus.de>. The Web site is www.koelntourismus.de. The concert Web site is www.aktivraum.de.



Volksmarch

The annual Rothenburg ob der Tauber walk has arrived. Rothenburg, the best-known walled city in Germany, hosts 6-, 11- or 20-kilometer courses outside the city on both Saturday and Sunday as well as the 15th annual 11-kilometer old city walk on Saturday that will wind volksmarchers through the streets of Rothenburg.

Start times are Saturday 7 a.m. until noon for the 6-, 11- and 20-kilometer courses and noon until 5 p.m. for the city walk.

Sunday's times are 7 a.m. until 2 p.m. for the 6- and 11-kilometer marches and 7 a.m. until 1 p.m. for the longer 20-kilometer course. There will also be 6- and 11-kilometer Young Walker's Tours that will use the same routes.

This year's half-liter beer mug is the next in the club's series of city Villmar. Live music will fill the start hall on both days while you're picking up your mug or having a meal or drink.

As in previous years, certain museums along the old town route will give you a discount when you present your IVV start card. One place that is frequently visited and talked about is the Medieval Crime Museum. In it, you'll find instruments such as the torture chamber, various executioner's axes and you can even have someone take your picture while you position yourself in the stocks outside the entrance.

Then there's the Doll and Toy Museum on Hofbronnenasse, just off the Market-plate. And what about climbing the Rathaus tower and getting a bird's-eye view of the city? If you're asking yourself "How can I get all of this done in one day?" think about starting the old city walk at noon and you'll have time to see a few places of interest.

The club expects 7,000 to 8,000 folks if the weather cooperates. The majority of Americans descend on the city for the Saturday old town walk. With that many participants, the start hall gets absolutely packed, and if you bring your dog, he/she is liable to get stepped on. I'd leave Fido at home and plan to arrive early to beat the crowds.

Whether you choose to walk the trails outside this city or the Saturday old town walk within, plan to spend some part of your weekend in Rothenburg.

E-mail Jennifer West at volksmarch@mail.estrines.com. Write her at: Volksmarch Column, Stars and Stripes, Bldg. 2899, Pulaski Barracks, APO AE 09227-3717 (MPS)

Listings come from brochures of IVV-sanctioned events that were either collected at volksmarches or mailed to Jennifer West by clubs wishing to promote their events. Locations are noted in the host language whenever possible. More extensive lists are available in the IVV or DVV-IVV Terminliste.

Country/Town	Day(s) and Time(s)	Code	Km.	Starting Point	Award	Directional Reference
Austria						
Lustenau	Sat 0800-1300, Sun 0800-1200	BF	5 & 10	Radienhalle	Model	E of St. Gallen, CH
France						
Uckange	Sun 0700-1400	F	10	Centre Socio-Culturel	No award	S of Thionville
Uckange	Sun 0700-1200	F	20	Centre Socio-Culturel	No award	S of Thionville
Wingen/Lembach	Sun 0700-1400	F	10 & 20	Salle polyvalente	No award	N of Haguenau
Germany						
Benrath	Sun 0700-1300	CF2.9	5	12 Festhalle	Certificate	NRW, E of Siegen
Bezgenfeld	Sat & Sun 0700-1300	F	5, 10, 12	TV-Hain	Drink bottle	BW, SE of Stuttgart
Dörfler-Esbach	Sat 0700-1400, Sun 0700-1200	F	5, 10, 16	Turmhalle	Beer mug	FRG, NE of Coburg
Dülmen	Sat & Sun 0730-1230	F	5, 10, 20	Sporthalle Am Bache	Wooden souvenir	NRW, N of Beckinghausen
Flacht	Sat 0700-1500, Sun 0700-1300	FY	6, 10, 20	Festhalle	Model Porsche	BW, NW of Stuttgart
Hemmersdorf	Sat 0700-1500, Sun 0700-1200	F	5 & 10	Grenzlandhalle	No award	SAR, NW of Saarouis
Hemmersdorf	Sat 0700-1400, Sun 0700-1200	F	15	Grenzlandhalle	No award	SAR, NW of Saarouis
Kelheim	Sat 1200-1800, Sun 0700-1200	BFX	5 & 10	Hauptschule	B-medal	OPF, SW of Regensburg
Kelheim	Sat 1600-1800	BFTX	5 & 10	Hauptschule	B-medal	OPF, SW of Regensburg
Münster-Samsheim	Sat & Sun 0700-1400	BCFX	5 & 10	Grundschule	OPF, SW of Regensburg	RP, S of Bingen
Randegg	Sun 0700-1300	F	5 & 10	Grenzlandhalle	Faberge egg	BW, SW of Siegen
Rothenburg o.d. Tauber	Sat 0700-1200, Sun 0700-1400	FPY	6 & 11	Sporthalle	Beer mug	FRM, S of Würzburg
Rothenburg o.d. Tauber	Sat 0700-1200, Sun 0700-1300	FPY	20	Sporthalle	FRM, S of Würzburg	FRM, S of Würzburg
Rothenburg o.d. Tauber	Sat 1200-1700	FPY	11	Sporthalle	FRM, S of Würzburg	FRM, S of Würzburg
Schweins	Wed 0700-1400	F	5 & 10	Primshalle	SAR, NW of Saarouis	HE, E of Limburg
Villmar	Sat & Sun 0700-1300	F	5 & 10	Schule	Umbrella	RP, W of Kaiserslautern
Waldmohr	Sat & Sun 0700-1400	F	6, 10 & 20	TV-Halle	No award	RP, W of Kaiserslautern
Wiesental	Sat & Sun 0700-1200	F	20	TV-Halle	No award	RP, W of Kaiserslautern
Wiesental	Sat 0800-1400, Sun 0700-1300	FX	6 & 10	TSV-Sporthalle	Model VW Touareg	BW, SW of Heidelberg
Wiesental	Sat 0800-1200, Sun 0700-1300	FX	20	TSV-Sporthalle	Model VW Touareg	BW, SW of Heidelberg
Italy						
Borso del Grappa	Sun 0800-0900	FX	6, 12, 20	Scuola Medie	Wooden pipe (500)	NE of Bassano
Concamarise	Sun 0830-0900	F	6, 12, 18	See misc. notes	1 kg rice	SE of Verona
Concamarise	Sun 0800-0900	F	6, 12, 18	See misc. notes	NE of Vicenza	SE of Verona
Fanna	Sun 0900-1000	F	5 & 14	See misc. notes	Local item	NE of Aviano
Teor	Sun 0900-1000	F	6, 12, 21	See misc. notes	Flowering plant	S of Rivignano
Netherlands						
Echt	Sun 0800-1400	-	7 & 12	Camping Hommelheide	No award	N of Sittard
Echt	Sun 0800-1200	-	19 & 25	Camping Hommelheide	No award	N of Sittard
Echt	Sun 0700-1000	M	42	Camping Hommelheide	No award	N of Sittard
Echt	Sun 0700-1000	M	42	Camping Hommelheide	No award	N of Sittard
Echt	Sun 0700-0900	M	50	Camping Hommelheide	No award	N of Sittard
Switzerland						
Gossau	Sat 1100-1500, Sun 0800-1200	-	5 & 10	Markttübi	No award	SW of St. Gallen
United Kingdom						
Darfield	Sun 1030	-	5 & 10	Cross Keys PH	Souvenir	E of Barnsley
Doncaster	Sun 0930	-	8 & 15	The New Inn	No award	NE of Rotherham
Marden	Sun 0900-1000	-	10 & 20	Village Hall	Souvenir	Near Upavon/NW of Andover
Southco	Sun 1000-1100	-	10 & 20	The Three Horseshoes	No award	NE of Bedford

GENERAL CODES

B - Awards from past events available (B-medals).

C - Bring a cup for free refreshments at the control points.

D - Shower/Wash facilities at start hall.

F - Free refreshment at control points.

M - Marathon or long-distance event.

N - Nordic walking event.

P - Music at start hall.

S - Stroller-friendly trails.

s - Shorter trail noted as stroller-friendly.

T - Evening/Night walk, carry a flashlight.

X - Award available while supply lasts.

W - Course suitable for wheelchairs.

Y - Young Walkers' Tour or Bambini-Liga event.

2.9 - Reduced price of 2.90 euros for start card & certificate.

3.50 - Reduced price of 3.50 euros for start card & B-medal.

SHS - Schleswig-Holstein/ Hamburg

SDS - Niedersachsen/Berlin

NRW - Nordrhein-Westfalen

RP - Rheinland-Pfalz

HE - Hessen

SAR - Saarland

BW - Baden-Württemberg Nord

BWS - Baden-Württemberg Süd

THS - Thüringen/Sachsen

FRG - Oberfranken (Upper Franken)

FRM - Mittelfranken (Middle Franken)

GERMAN STATE/REGION CODES:

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SCN - Schwaben

OPF - Oberpfalz

NDB - Niederbayern

MOB - München-Oberbayern

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Calendar

COMPILED BY
JAYNE TRAENDLY

Special to Stars and Stripes

Listings are the latest information available at press time, but are subject to change. It's wise to check with the local tourist board to confirm details of the event before traveling.

AUSTRIA

www.austria.info.at

VIENNA: Johann Strauss ball, **March 19**
VIENNA: Dream on ice, **through March 6**. Ice skating at City Hall.
RAURIS: International Dog Sleigh Race on the Gold Trail, **Feb. 26-27**.
INERKREMS: Dog sled race championship, **March 11-13**.
VIENNA: Easter market, **March 12-23**. Castle Schönbrunn.
HALL: Easter festival, **March 14, 19, 24-25**.
VIENNA: OsterKlang Festival, **March 18 - 28**.
SALZBURG: Easter festival, **March 19-28**.

BELGIUM

www.visitbelgium.com

THROUGHOUT the country: Anniversary of 175 years of independence, **through 2005**.
BRUSSELS, WALLONIA: Beer 2005, **through 2005**.
STAVELOT: Mid-Lent carnival, **March 6**.
BRUSSELS: Festival of fantastic film, **March 11-26**.
TOURNAI: Flower market, **March 25**.

CZECH REPUBLIC

www.visitczechia.cz

PRAGUE: Easter markets, **March 19-24**. Old Town and Wenceslas Squares.
PRAGUE: Accordion festival, **April 8-12**.

ENGLAND

www.visitbritain.com

LONDON: National wedding show, **Feb. 25-27**. Olympia.
LONDON: Winter beerfest, **Feb. 27**. Kensington Town Hall.
LONDON: International drive show, **March 5-6**. ExCel Docklands.
BIRMINGHAM: Crafts dog show, **March 10-13**. NEC.
LONDON: Classicville, **March 18-23**. Classical music and instruments exhibit, Olympia.
LONDON: Stitch 2005, **March 31-April 3**. Needlecrafts, Olympia.
BIRMINGHAM: Go Fishing, **April 1-3**. Angling fair.

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Best bet: Strong beer

Is the cold weather making you feel a bit low on energy? Follow the tradition the monks of old did in Munich, Germany, during this Lent season and fill up on steins of "strong" beer. This nutritious liquid with about 705 calories per liter saw them through their period of abstinence in more ways than one — its alcohol content is 7.5 percent. Not one to break a good habit, the city is holding its annual Strong Beer season through March 20 in several of its beer cellars, the most famous being the Salvator (Paulaner am Nockherberg) and Löwenbräu Kellers. For information, contact the Munich Tourist Board at (+49) (0) 89/233 0300. The Web site is www.muenchen.de.

— JAYNE TRAENDLY

FRANCE

www.francetourism.com

METZ: Flea market, **April 2, 16; May 7, 21**. 6 a.m.-1 p.m.
MENTON: Lemon festival, **through Feb. 27**.
PARIS: City marathon, **April 10**.

GERMANY

www.germany-tourism.de

MUNICH: Strong beer season, **through March 20**. Löwenbräu Keller.
MICHELSTADT: Easter egg market, **March 5-6**.
NÜRNBERG: Bikers World, **March 5-6**.
HANNOVER: CeBit, **March 10-16**. Computer fair.
HAMBURG: Carnival, **March 15-April 17**. Dom.
HEIDELBERG: Long night of the museums, **March 19**.
NÜRNBERG: Easter market, **March 11-28**.
NEU-ANSBACH (Hessenpark): Easter egg market, **March 19-20**.
BENSHEI: Irish music festival, **March 20**.
HEIDELBERG: Spring festival, **April 1-30**.

HUNGARY

www.hungarytourism.hu

BUDAPEST: Spring festival, **March 19-April 4**.



Young people frolic in Venice's St. Mark's Square on Monday. In the background is St. Mark's Basilica. AP

HOLLOKO: Easter festival, **March 27-28**.

IRELAND

www.travel.ie

DUBLIN: St. Patrick's Day festival, **March 16-20**.

ITALY

www.italiantourism.com

FLORENCE: Explosion of the cart, **March 27**.
ROME: City marathon, **March 13**.
VENICE: Su e zo per i ponti, **March 27**. Runs in the city.
VENICE: St. Mark's Day, **April 25**.

THE NETHERLANDS

www.holland.com/uk

AMSTERDAM: Hisswa, **March 1-6**. Water sports fair.
MAASTRICHT: European fine arts fair, **March 4-13**.
ROTTERDAM: City marathon, **April 10**.

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SCOTLAND

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GLASGOW: International comedy festival, **March 10-26**.
EDINBURGH: Easter festival, **March 24-28**.
HAWICK (Borders): Reivers festival, **March 25-27**. Historical festival.

SPAIN

www.tourspain.co.uk

VALENCIA: Las Fallas, **March 14-19**.
THROUGHOUT the country: Holy Week, **March 20-27**.
SEVILLE: Spring fair, **April 12-17**.
BARCELONA: City marathon, **April 20**.

SWITZERLAND

www.switzerlandtourism.ch

ENGADIN: Cross-country marathon, **March 13**.
BERN: Museum night, **March 18**.
GENEVA: Car show, **March 3-13**.

Einstein exhibition

The Stiftung Neue Synagoge Berlin-Centrum Judaicum in Berlin will be showing an exhibition on Albert Einstein March 8 to May 6 and Sept. 1 to 30 as part of the Albert Einstein Year in Germany.

The exhibit is titled "Relative Jewish, Albert Einstein — Jew, Zionist, Nonconformist" and shows the famous physicist's relationship to Judaism.

There also will be a series of lectures to accompany the show and during the summer, a series of concerts that honor musicians and performers persecuted by the Nazis.

Contact the foundation at telephone (+49) (0) 30/880 28451. The e-mail is office@cjudaicum.de. The Web site is www.cjudaicum.de.

— JAYNE TRAENDLY

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OPINION

Keeping enemy at bay substitutes for victory

BY ANDREW J. BACEVICH

Americans of a certain age will recall Douglas MacArthur's pithy aphorism: "There is no substitute for victory." The remark captures an essential element of our military tradition. When the United States goes to war, it fights to win, to force the enemy to do our will. To sacrifice our soldiers' lives for anything less — as MacArthur charged was the case in Korea and later unambiguously because the case in Vietnam — smacks of being somewhere other than American.

But among the various official statements being issued to explain events in Iraq, any mention of military victory has become notable by its absence. Tacitly — unnoticed even by the war's critics — the Bush administration has all but given up on expectation of defeating the enemy with whom we are engaged.

In the early days of the insurgency, Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez vowed to use "whatever combat power is necessary to win," displaying all the pugnacity of a George Patton or Stormin' Norman Schwarzkopf. "That's what America expects of me," declared Sanchez in December 2003, "and that's what I'm going to accomplish." Senior commanders no longer make such bold promises. Nor do senior civilian officials in Washington.

Indeed, today the Bush administration's aim is not to win but to relieve itself of responsibility for fighting a war that it began but cannot finish. Debate in national security circles focuses not on deploying war-winning technologies or fielding innovative tactics that might turn the tide, but on how we

can extricate ourselves before our over-stretched forces suffer irreparable damage.

Optimists are placing their hopes on a crash program to create a new Iraqi security force that just might permit us in a year or so to begin reducing the size of our garrison. Pessimists have their doubts. But virtually no one is predicting we will be even remotely close to crushing the insurgency. The decisive victory promised by the war's advocates back in March 2003 — remember all the talk of "shock and awe"? — has now slipped beyond our grasp.

Of course, following the heady assault on Baghdad, the conflict took an unexpected turn — precisely as wars throughout history have tended to do. As a consequence, today a low-tech enemy force estimated at about 10,000 fighters has stymied the mightiest military establishment the world has ever seen. To be sure, the adversary cannot defeat us militarily. But neither can we defeat it. In short, U.S. troops today are no longer fighting to win, but simply to buy time: This has become the Bush administration's substitute for victory. Worse, in a war such as in Iraq, time is more likely to work in the other guy's favor.

Whether this reality has yet to fully sink in with the majority of the American people is unclear. No doubt President Bush hopes the citizenry will continue to snooze. Better to talk about Social Security reform and banning gay marriage than to call attention to the unhappy fact that we are spending several billion dollars per month and losing, on average, two soldiers per day — not to prevail but simply to prolong the stalemate. Moreover, if the administration gets its way, we



can expect that expenditure of blood and treasure to continue for many months, until there emerges an Iraqi government able to fend for itself or Iraq descends into chaos.

Pending the final judgment, this much we can say for sure: Two years after the dash on Baghdad seemingly affirmed the invincibility of the U.S. armed forces, the actual limits of American power now lay exposed for all to see. Our adversaries, real and potential, are no doubt busy contemplating the implications of those limits.

So too must we. Our effort to do so should begin with the admission that the idea, promoted during the heady spring of 2003, that through the aggressive use of military power the United States might transform the Islamic world and cement U.S. global pre-eminence was a dangerous delusion. It remains a delusion today.

Andrew J. Bacevich is professor of international relations at Boston University and author of "The New American Militarism: How Americans Are Seduced by War." This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

Bush right to seek to influence hearts and minds

BY JAMES K. GLASSMAN

Scripts Howard

While President Bush has sent Congress a budget that keeps the growth of discretionary programs below the rate of inflation, he has proposed increasing outlays on public diplomacy by about one-fifth.

That's a smart move, and it shows that something important is changing in the second term.

As Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said last month, "Public diplomacy will be a top priority for me and for the professionals I lead." It's about time.

Public diplomacy, or PD, is the promotion of the national interest by informing, engaging and influencing people around the world. In the past, with institutions such as Radio Free Europe and the U.S. Information Agency, we had no equal, and PD played a key role in winning the Cold War. No wonder: The United States is home to Hollywood and Madison Avenue, to state-of-the-art marketing research and political campaigns. We know how to communicate.

Of course, policy counts most, and many foreigners simply disagree with our policies — in Iraq, on the environment, on trade. But we have a better chance of winning them over if we explain ourselves well — a task that is practically impossible right now. The problem isn't the State Department. It's bigger. Public diplomacy lacks strategic direction, clear goals, a method of assessing whether programs are working, and money.

But there's no doubt that Rice understands this and is out to fix it, and the president's current trip to Europe reflects her new emphasis. The road to Brussels was paved, by Rice herself and others, with smooth and effective use of public (as well as official) diplomacy. Even the antagonistic New York Times headlined Sunday, "Opinion Is Softening on Divided Continent."

Some call public diplomacy "soft power," but that's nonsense. In addition to long-term projects such as exchange programs for students and foreign officials, PD can be tough and aggressive and immediate.

Imagine, for example, a kind of rapid-response truth squad, which would immediately counter the hundreds of lies and distortions made by the United States that appear each day in the world press.

In 2003, I served on the Advisory Group on Public Diplomacy for the Arab and Muslim World, a commission established by Congress and headed by a respected ambassador, Edward Djerejian, who served presidents of both parties. What we found was shocking. Among other things, the United States has fewer than a half-dozen Arabic speakers who can debate policy on TV in the Middle East.

Public diplomacy played a big role in winning the Cold War but, after the Berlin Wall came down, the magnificent PD apparatus

was dismantled, bit by bit, by left and right. During the 1980s and 1990s, staffing dropped by one-third and funding, justified for inflation, by one-fourth.

"A process of unilateral disarmament in the weapons of advocacy over the last decade," said the Djerejian report, "has contributed to widespread hostility toward Americans and left us vulnerable to lethal threats to our interests and our safety."

Most of this disarmament occurred during the Clinton administration. But in the first term of George W. Bush, public diplomacy did not receive the attention it deserved. I can forgive the president and his advisers; they were hustling to restore the military readiness that had also been neglected under Clinton. Still, the top PD post in the State Department went unfilled for nearly two years.

Now, Bush and Rice have signaled that they are serious about restoring PD to its rightful place in the nation's armamentari-

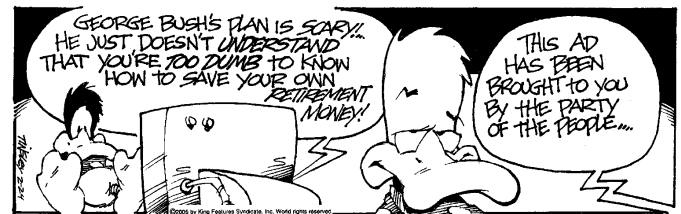
um. In her prepared statement at confirmation hearings last month, Rice said, "We need to do much more to confront hostile propaganda, dispel dangerous myths and get out the truth. We will increase our exchanges with the rest of the world. And Americans should make a serious effort to understand other cultures and learn foreign languages. ... If our public diplomacy efforts are to succeed, we cannot close ourselves off from the world."

Even with the proposed increases, public diplomacy remains, as the Djerejian report said, "absurdly and dangerously underfunded ... in this time of need." But money isn't the whole problem. PD needs, first and foremost, to be taken seriously in the White House as a way to win the war against terrorism and the battle for global democracy and prosperity. The signs, in the first month of the new administration, are hopeful.

James K. Glassman is a fellow at the American Enterprise Institute and host of the Web site TechCentralStation.com.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



AFRTS Television Schedule

Updated program listings are available on the first Scoreboard page in the sports section or AFRTS Web site at <http://myaftr.dodmedia.osd.mil/>

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2005

	(AFN-FAMILY)	(AFN-VIDEO)	(AFN-EUROPE)	(AFN-KOREA)	(AFN-NEWS)	(AFN-SPORTS)	(SPECTRUM)	(AFN-PACIFIC)
9:00	Stanley "Corolla Sheepwreck"	Movie "Ben and the Single Girl" (2004) Drama (G) G. Grady, Grant Show.	Dr. Phil	Jocodyrj	Nightline	College Basketball Providence at Salem Hall. (Taped)	30-Minute Meals	Jocodyrj
9:30	Sagwa-Siamess Cat				News/Motion Corps News		Low Carb & Low Fat	Headline News
10:00	Arthur (E)		8-46 Oprah Winfrey	ESPNNews	Hardball With Chris Matthews		Design on a Dime	ESPNNews
10:30	Reading Rainbow (E)	(143) Movie *** "Batman Returns" (1992) Adventure (R) Michael Keaton, Michelle Pfeiffer. The Catwoman and the Penguin join forces against Batman.	(33) Guiding Light	Advisory Block	The O'Reilly Factor	SportsCenter	Style Star	Pacific Report
11:00	Sagwa-Siamess Cat		(17) General Hospital	(25) Will & Grace			El News Live	Two and a Half Men
11:30	Stanley		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	60 Minutes	College Basketball Boston College at Villanova. (Taped)	Are King of Queens	(25) Will & Grace
12:00	Dora the Explorer "Loudin"		Judge Judy				That '70s Show	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live
12:30	The Wiggles	Movie *** "The Wedding Singer" (1998) Adam Sandler. A 1980s wedding goes awry as everyone tries to find true love.	Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	Fox and Friends		Girlfriends	Charmed "The Good, the Bad and the Cursed"
13:00	Bob the Builder		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live			Strong Medicine "Strained"	Pacific Report
13:30	Dragon Tales (E)	(232) Movie *** "Emma" (1996) Comedy (G) Gwyneth Paltrow. A young woman's return to her hometown causes a series of misunderstandings and love disasters.	Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	American Morning	NBA Basketball Houston Rockets at San Antonio Spurs. From the San Antonio Sports Center in San Antonio.	Any Day Now "A Parent's Job"	Late Show With David Letterman
14:00	Barney & Friends (E)		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	CNN Live Today		Third Watch "Requiem for a Serenissima"	The Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson
14:30	Stanley		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live			Law & Order "Whose Monkey Is It Anyway?"	Dennis Miller
15:00	Funnies Home Videos		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	NBA Fastbreak	The Simpsons	Countdown With Keith Olbermann
15:30	Full House		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	60 Minutes	ESPNNews	Everybody Loves Raymond	Countdown With Keith Olbermann
16:00	Pokémon Holiday H-Myx		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	The Practice "Let's Move"	Headline News
16:30	Yo-Gi-Q! Kabla is trapped.		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	Friends	Good Morning America
17:00	Doug (E)		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	Friends	Good Morning America
17:30	The Wild Thornberrys		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	Friends	Good Morning America
18:00	The Fairly OddParents		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	Friends	Good Morning America
18:30	Rugrats		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	Friends	Good Morning America
19:00	Unfabulous "The Party"		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	Friends	Good Morning America
19:30	All That		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	Friends	Good Morning America
20:00	7th Heaven "PK"		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	Friends	Good Morning America
20:30	Sabrina, the Teenage Witch		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	Friends	Good Morning America
21:00	Sabrina, the Teenage Witch		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	Friends	Good Morning America
22:00	The Cozy Show		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	Friends	Good Morning America
22:30	Home Improvement "Lips"		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	Friends	Good Morning America
23:00	Home Improvement "Lips"		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	Friends	Good Morning America
23:30	Home Improvement "Lips"		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	Friends	Good Morning America

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2005

00:00	Doug "Doug Grows Up" (E)		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	Friends	Good Morning America
00:30	Rocket Power		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	Friends	Good Morning America
1:00	The Fairly OddParents		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	Friends	Good Morning America
1:30	Rugrats		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	Friends	Good Morning America
2:00	Unfabulous "The Party"		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	Friends	Good Morning America
2:30	All That		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	Friends	Good Morning America
3:00	7th Heaven "PK"		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	Friends	Good Morning America
3:30	Sabrina, the Teenage Witch		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	Friends	Good Morning America
4:00	Sabrina, the Teenage Witch		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	Friends	Good Morning America
5:00	Sesame Street (E)		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	Friends	Good Morning America
5:30	Barney & Friends (E)		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	Friends	Good Morning America
6:00	Barney's Diner		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	Friends	Good Morning America
7:00	Dragon Tales (E)		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	Friends	Good Morning America
7:30	Bob the Builder		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	Friends	Good Morning America
8:00	The Wiggles		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	Friends	Good Morning America
8:30	Dora the Explorer		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	Friends	Good Morning America
9:00	Stanley "Worms at Work"		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	Friends	Good Morning America
9:30	Sagwa-Siamess Cat		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	Friends	Good Morning America
10:00	Arthur (E)		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	Friends	Good Morning America
10:30	Reading Rainbow (E)		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	Friends	Good Morning America
11:00	Sagwa-Siamess Cat		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	Friends	Good Morning America
11:30	Stanley		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	Friends	Good Morning America
12:00	Dora the Explorer		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	Friends	Good Morning America
12:30	The Wiggles		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	Friends	Good Morning America
13:00	Bob the Builder "Imma Court"		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	Friends	Good Morning America
13:30	Dragon Tales (E)		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	Friends	Good Morning America
14:00	Blue's Clues "Blue is sad, so a wild graduation party"		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	Friends	Good Morning America
14:30	Barney & Friends (E)		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	Friends	Good Morning America
15:00	Funnies Home Videos		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	Friends	Good Morning America
15:30	Full House "High Low Love"		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	Friends	Good Morning America
16:00	Pokémon "Show Will Be Show"		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	Friends	Good Morning America
16:30	Yo-Gi-Q! (Part 2 of 3)		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	Friends	Good Morning America
17:00	Doug (E)		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	Friends	Good Morning America
17:30	The Wild Thornberrys		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	Friends	Good Morning America
18:00	The Fairly OddParents		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	Friends	Good Morning America
18:30	Rugrats First Harsh		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	Friends	Good Morning America
19:00	All Grown Up		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	Friends	Good Morning America
19:30	Dave the Barbarian		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	Friends	Good Morning America
20:00	Danny Phantom		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	Friends	Good Morning America
20:30	Drake & Josh		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	Friends	Good Morning America
21:00	That's So Raven		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	Friends	Good Morning America
21:30	Phil of the Future "Philly in a Pinch"		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	Friends	Good Morning America
22:00	Switched		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	Friends	Good Morning America
22:30	Radio Free Roscoe		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	Friends	Good Morning America
23:00	The Cozy Show		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	Friends	Good Morning America
23:30	Home Improvement		Headline News	Live From New York: The First 5 Years of Saturday Night Live	FOX News	PGA Golf WGC Accenture Match Play Championship - Second Day, From La Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, Calif. (Same-day Tapes)	Friends	Good Morning America

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FACES

R.E.M. bassist suffering from infection

R.E.M. bassist Mike Mills has a severe ear infection, but should be well enough for the band to resume its European tour, singer Michael Stipe said.

The band canceled a concert in Sheffield, northern England, after Mills fell ill with flu-like symptoms. The show was rescheduled for June 15. A concert scheduled in Glasgow, Scotland, also was called off.

Stipe said doctors had told Mills he should be able to perform Wednesday, when the band is due to play in Birmingham, central England.

He said the bass player's illness began with a case of flu and evolved into an inner-ear infection.



Mills

Rocker granted bail change to perform

Rock singer Pete Doherty, facing charges of robbery and blackmail, was granted a change to his bail conditions so he could play a Tuesday night concert.

Judge David Radford agreed to a request that Doherty's curfew of 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. be changed Tuesday for one night only — to midnight to 7 a.m. Doherty was expected to play at the Brixton Academy concert venue in south London that evening.

Doherty, 25, former singer with British band The Libertines, attended a preliminary hearing Monday at Snaresbrook Crown Court in London. He was arrested earlier this month after a reported fracas at a London hotel. The singer spent five

nights in police and prison cells before being released on bail.

Radford also granted a request that Doherty's bond be reduced from \$280,000 to \$185,000, but added that applications for a change to bail conditions should not be a "too regular occurrence."

Miss. legislators commend Faith Hill

Faith Hill can add lawmakers in her native Mississippi to her legion of loyal fans.

Legislators on Monday commended Hill's successful music career after she spoke at the state Capitol to promote a Mississippi Arts and Entertainment Center in Meridian.

"Today I stand here before you with my heart filled with pride and a sense of accomplishment," the 37-year-old singer told members of the state House and Senate.

Hill left Mississippi at 19 to pursue a music career in Nashville, Tenn. In 1993, her debut single, "Wild One," spent four weeks at No. 1 on the country music charts. Hill, a native of Star, outside Jackson, has sold nearly 30 million records worldwide.

"We honor you as we do astronauts and ambassadors because you truly are an ambassador of this state," said House Speaker Billy McCoy.



Hill

Buyer wants to create Carson memorial

The new owner of Johnny Carson's childhood home in Norfolk, Neb., is a private real estate company that wants to turn it into a memorial.

Historic Properties Inc., based in Norcross, Ga., bought the five-bedroom house for an undisclosed price in a deal sealed Friday, said company spokesman Cal Oren. Carson, who died Jan. 23, 1979, lived in the house from ages 8 to 18.

"Our primary motivation here was as a tribute to Carson," Oren said.

Jim Pruett of Brandon, S.D., and Rick Runge of Sioux Falls, S.D., bought the home in March 2003 for \$150,000 and spent about \$20,000 renovating it in hopes of selling it at a profit.

Runge said Monday that Pruett took over ownership more than a year ago. Pruett didn't immediately return a telephone call seeking comment.



Carson

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



FRANK OCKENFELS/SHS

The cast of 'NYPD Blue': Dennis Franz as Detective Andy Sipowicz, Mark-Paul Gosselaar as Detective John Clark Jr., Gordon Clapp as Detective John Medaway, Bill Brochtrup as clerk John Irvin, Henry Simmons as Detective Baldwin Jones, Jacqueline Obradors as Detective Rita Ortiz, Currie Graham as Lt. Thomas Bale and Bonnie Somerville as Detective Laura Murphy.

ABC is losing the blues

'NYPD Blue' and its characters prepare for March 1 exit

BY NOEL HOLSTON

Newspaper (LATWFP)

I like a lion and out like... well, if not exactly a lamb, a much less fearsome lion.

That's the arc that's been traversed by "NYPD Blue." In 1993, the ABC cop drama, with its blunt language and flashes of nudity, scandalized thousands of viewers and seduced millions more. On March 1, it will end its 12-season run in relative quiet and anonymity.

Given the series' now modest Nielsen ratings and how accustomed viewers have become to its modus operandi, it's strange to recall that the show once scared off network affiliates by the dozens and led to at least one Bible Belt minister to pray for the collapse of his local ABC station's broadcast tower.

"NYPD Blue" was meant to shock. Producer-writer Steven Bochco, who created the series with David Milch, was determined to push the boundaries of broadcast TV further than he had in "Hill Street Blues" or "L.A. Law," his biggest previous hits. But Bochco also was agitating for more honesty. He was done with putting cop euphemisms such as "dog breath" and "hair ball" into cops' mouths.

"When you're doing a cop show," he

told a gathering of TV critics in Los Angeles in the summer of 1993, "and you're competing with cable, which has a tremendous penetration into homes now, I don't think you can compete unless you can paint with some of the same colors that you can paint with when you're making movies."

The color he favored was blue.

In the notorious pilot episode that

would be the series' enduring contribution to TV drama — was the one that showed a seething, disillusioned Sipowicz parked on a bar stool in mid-afternoon, fatalistically knocking back straight shots of whiskey.

"There was so much controversy surrounding the show," Bochco recalled last month at a final session with critics and reporters.

"And I think if there had been any wobble in the audience reaction to us, I don't know that we would have survived three, four weeks. But we were virtually an instant hit. And I knew that creatively we were enormously strong."

Bochco said that while it wasn't his idea to make the current season the last, he didn't fight it when ABC broached the idea. "I think for them it was partly [because] the show wasn't performing at a level that they would have wished it would. You know, it's a very expensive show. And I certainly felt that after 12 years, it wasn't as if there was unfinished business."

But Bochco said there still will be some loose ends.

"I don't think at the end of our last episode you'll feel that the life of this precinct has stopped or ended. You know it will continue on, but you just won't get to visit it every week."

"When you're doing a cop show and you're competing with cable, which has a tremendous penetration into homes now, I don't think you can compete unless you can paint with some of the same colors that you can paint with when you're making movies."

Steven Bochco

'NYPD Blue' producer-writer

had many ABC affiliate managers reaching for the Maalox, the bunnies manifested itself in testy, crude Detective Andy Sipowicz (Dennis Franz) grabbing his crotch and inviting a woman prosecutor to "Ipsos this..." followed by a reference to an incontinent female dog. There were assorted epithets involving private parts of the human anatomy, and a scene of Detective John Kelly (David Caruso) and Officer Janice Licalsi (Amy Brenneman) exposing some of the same while rolling about in bed. For all that, however, the pilot's edgy sequence — and the one that pointed to what

Horoscope

The sun and Uranus brush shoulders at the cosmic coffee shop, and it's "Hello, old friend, do catch me up." You could unexpectedly run into an old friend of your own — or an old habit, vivid memory or lost piece of paper. The point is to check in and realize where you came from and how far away you are from there, mentally or physically.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(February 24). Your sunny state of mind helps you optimize your experiences this year. Big money springs from an opportunity to use your unique talent in March. If you watch your spending, you'll have enough for a substantial investment in July. Providing for future generations in your family is on your mind and an achievable goal this year, too.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Wouldn't it be nice to have a more fulfilling social life? You certainly deserve it, so put a little effort into this sector of life. Think about who your friends really are and whom you'd like to add to the roster.

TAURUS (April 20-May 21)

It's out there — and you've got to go out there to get it. Phone calls bring new work, so start dialing! Even cold calls are better than none at all. There's romantic potential with a Leo or Pisces.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

This is no time to be laid back. It seems the aggressive will inherit the Earth before the meek even have their first cup of coffee. Set the bar high. If you're willing to practice, your talent brings acclaim.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

The boundaries of a relationship are being challenged. You want to be loved, not possessed. Don't rush matters of the heart — small steps in the right direction eventually get a relationship to the promised land.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

You're the cheerleader, the taskmaster and the drill sergeant — whatever persona is needed to get the job

done. Employees, loved ones and the general public respond to your authority. You've definitely got style.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Prepare and do your homework. Your willpower is the secret weapon. A sweetheart may use (annoying) antics to get your attention. Call 'em as you see 'em. Singles: Potential partners find your ambition sexy.

Holiday Mathis



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

Getting started is half the battle now. If all you do is tackle the first task of a new project, you've won. Show your talent to the right people. The idealism of a loved one is more helpful than the pessimism of an expert.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

Your one-on-one skills are put to use. Establish communication with someone you have admired from a distance. Really, romantic competition is no competition for you. Taste the good life tonight.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You say "tomato," and your pal says "tom-ah-to," but stylistic differences are not enough to keep a budding romance from going full speed ahead. In fact, the more different you are, the more attracted you'll be.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

The way out of the current dilemma is not the same way you came into it. Your own vision is the one to follow. Quietly leave the others to their devices, and get creative. Trust your artistry and inventiveness.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

You expect yourself to be brilliant, and coincidentally, so does everyone else. Delivering on such expectations is something well within your grasp. At work, don't slack off.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

The past tugs at your conscience, and the future tries to seduce you. The challenge is to stay attentive to what is happening now. If you can do this, a workable action plan will come to mind.

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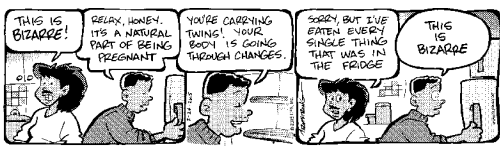
Peanuts



Calvin and Hobbes



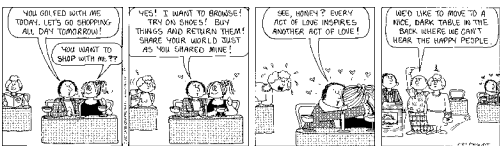
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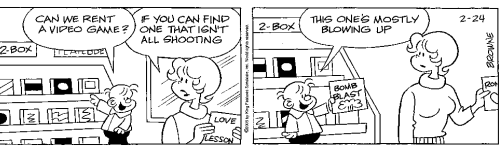
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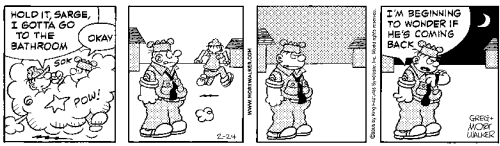
Cathy



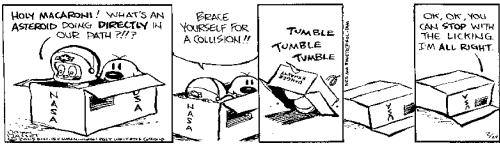
Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red and Rover



Better or Worse



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



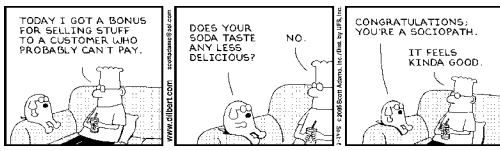
Spider Man



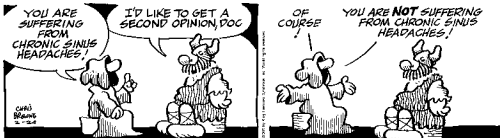
Blondie



Dilbert



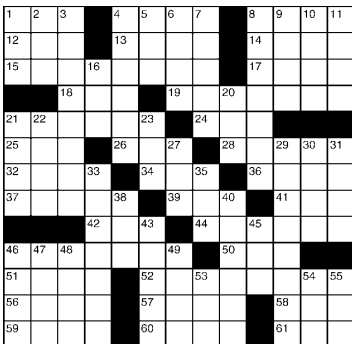
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Rock band's need
4 Jalopy
8 Weak, as an excuse
12 Privy
13 Sicilian spouter
14 Reunion guest, maybe
15 Face painting?
17 Tranquil
18 Jamaican export
19 Majestic
21 Cure-all
24 Rage
25 Scoundrel
26 Pinnacle
28 Poultry purchase
32 Lofty
34 Apiary denizen
36 Unrivaled
37 Black-and-white treats
39 Homer Simpson's dad

- 61 Pair in Tennessee?

Down

- 1 Matterhorn, e.g.
2 Cattle call
3 Mama Bear's recipe
4 Recluse
5 Timetable abbr.
6 Blackbirds
7 Page of music
8 Milky
9 Wings
10 Think (lover)
11 Tube trophy
16 Monkey wit
20 Curve
21 Reverberate
22 Den
23 Filch
27 Shooter ammo

Answer to Previous Puzzle



2-24

CRYPTOQUIP

FABK WTZNL B XYGTY
XYQEGLODK'E LQDKZYQE
VQ WBNNQL? KAQ OQTYOQ

FBEAGDOKTD VYGLOQ.
Yesterday's Cryptquip: IF AN ITALIAN CHEF GOT VERY MAD, I PRESUME HE COULD GIVE YOU A PIZZA HIS MIND!

Today's Cryptquip Clue: L equals D

Be good influence for son's friend

Dear Abby: My son, "Adam," is 9. He's very bright and earns straight A's in school. Adam gets in trouble now and then for goofing off, but nothing serious.

Adam has become friends with a boy in his class named "Sean," who has been in trouble quite often and has even been suspended from school. I happen to know that Sean's parents have drugs in their home and have been in trouble with the law.

Although allowing my son to go to Sean's house is out of the question, I have considered permitting Sean to come here and play where I can keep a close eye on him. I can't help but see that Sean is an innocent child who needs a positive influence. Would I be wrong to allow Adam to invite him over? Or should I discourage this friendship altogether? I'm unsure how to handle this.

— Protective Mom in Illinois

Dear Abby



Dear Mom: You are in a position to make an important difference in that child's life. You could be the influence that turns his life around. The more time Sean spends in your home, the more he will be able to experience what a healthy family is like. As long as your son's friend follows the rules at your house, I see no reason why he should not be invited over. So be an angel and throw the boy a lifeline.

Dear Abby: I moved in with the gentleman friend "Victor" eight months ago. I have insisted on paying for my room and board even though I was between jobs and money is tight.

Recently, over my objections, Victor emptied a room of my personal effects to make room for his guests. He has put me in a smaller room, so also wants to make available to his

guest's guests. Mind you, by "personal effects" I mean my underwear, jewelry, bills and personal papers, etc. There is only one full bathroom in his house, so this room is also where I dress and take care of private matters.

The "guests" are usually Victor's grown sons and their girlfriends. I no longer have warm, fuzzy feelings for this man. Am I being unreasonable or unforgiving? Victor says I don't need to go, but I think it's time I move on. What do you think?

— Unfair in Florida

Dear Unfair: By moving your belongings over your objection, Victor has sent you an important message. He may think you don't need to go, but since you no longer have "warm, fuzzy feelings" for him, I agree that you must. It's not unreasonable or unforgiving, it is rational.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uspspress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MYLIF

OCTIX

INLOIV

DEXENP

Answer here: A

Yesterday's Jumbles Answer:

RIVET MANGY FEEBLE AIRWAY

When they vacationed on the posh island, they were surrounded by — WATER

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argiliron



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

“ ” (Answers tomorrow)

Grandma's medical updates too much

Dear Annie: My 89-year-old grandmother has been living with my parents for the past couple of years. Although Grandma has some medical problems, she always has been spry and independent.

My family does not get to visit often, as we live several hours away. The problem is that Mom and Dad send all of the family e-mail, which contains way too much detail about Grandma's bowels, diaper changes, medications, etc.

I don't want to mention Grandma from the perspective of a medical caregiver. I think this blabbing takes away from her dignity and that she would be embarrassed and upset knowing her personal information is disseminated in such a fashion.

I know my parents are avid readers of yours. I hope they will read this and mend their ways.

— Grouched-Out Grandchild

Dear Grouched-Out: One of the reasons your parents are e-mailing this information is because it

Annie's Mailbox



is a form of emotional support for them. They are sharing their burden with people who love Grandma, and who will step in and help if needed. However, they shouldn't force it on you.

Tell your parents that you love Grandma and want to know how she's doing, but you cannot handle all the details about her medical

status.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Indiana," the man who likes to wear pantyhose. Shame on you for insinuating that most men who wear pantyhose are cross-dressers. I used to work at a large hospital, and many of the male nurses, orderlies and some doctors wore stockings under their scrub uniforms for support.

Not only do your legs feel better at the end of a long day on your feet, they also aid in helping to reduce swelling in the feet and ankles and ward off varicose veins. I believe NFL star Joe

Namath wore pantyhose during practice and games for the same reason.

I say to "Indiana," if you are more comfortable with them on, it does not matter what anyone else thinks. They are your legs.

— Conservative South Dakotan

Dear S.D.: First, let's clear up the Joe Namath myth. He never said he wore pantyhose during games and practices. He appeared in an ad extolling their ability to make your legs look good.

We don't give a rat's patoot what you wear under your clothes, and we know there are some men who wear pantyhose for support. But the reason pantyhose reduce swelling is because they are binding. Standard nylon pantyhose are not something a woman wears for comfort, but if you like them, get gezunder hey! (so in good health).

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

Family Circus



"Mommy uses one of those, too — under her shoulder."

GRAFFITI

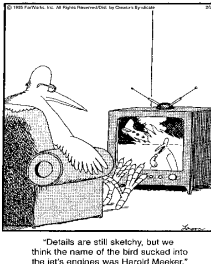


Domis the Menace



© Gary Larson

The Far Side



Non Sequitur



Carter faces former team, gets overshadowed by Rose

The Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Jalen Rose kicked a little sand in Vince Carter's face.

Coming off an All-Star break beach vacation, Rose outplayed Carter in the former Toronto star's first game against his old team, leading the Raptors to a 100-82 road victory over the New Jersey Nets on Tuesday night.

Carter, traded from Toronto to New Jersey in December after seven seasons with the Raptors, finished with 22 points on 8-of-25 shooting, missed several drives, was off-target with his jumper, committed four turnovers and missed four free throws.

"He probably was a little tired from All-Star weekend," Rose said. "While he was running up and down the court throwing it off the backboard, I was lying on the beach drinking a fruity drink with an umbrella."

"So I probably gave myself an unfair advantage on that one."

Rose scored 30 points on 12-of-15 shooting and did a fine defensive job on Carter.

"I won't say it was necessarily a personal challenge, but it was a reason to come out and want to play well. In Toronto, definitely all eyes were on this game," Rose said. "Being the leader of the team, I tried to lead by example."

Rose also led the Raptors on a 14-4 run early in the fourth quarter.

"It's disappointing, the way we played," Carter said. "It's always a concern coming out of the All-Star break how your team makes its comeback after the break. It looked OK early, it got worse the rest of the night."

Rose had a three-point jumper early in the fourth quarter as the shot clock expired before Carter came up with his lone high-light-reel move of the night, spinning 360 degrees while he drove beneath the basket before spinning in a reverse layup.

Rose answered by driving around Carter for a layup, then stealing the ball from Carter as he was double-teamed. The steal led to Donyell Marshall's three-point shot that made it 79-66, and Carter followed by missing a running jumper.

Carter Bosh had 16 points and 12 rebounds for the Raptors, and Milton Palacio added 13 points. Jason Kidd scored 20 points for the Nets.

SuperSonics 87, Rockets 85: Ron Anderson scored 29 points capped by two free throws with 16 seconds left, to help visiting Seattle snap Houston's winning streak at eight games.

The Rockets had a chance to tie it with 5 seconds left, but Scott Padgett's three-point attempt was short and Allen came up with the steal.

Rashard Lewis added 23 points for Seattle. Yao Ming led Houston



Toronto Raptors' Jalen Rose, right, drives to the basket as he is guarded by New Jersey Nets' Jason Kidd during the second quarter Tuesday night in East Rutherford, N.J. Rose led all scorers with 30 points as the Raptors beat the Nets 100-82.

with 30 points.

Bulls 105, Heat 101 (OT): At Chicago, Ben Gordon hit five three-pointers in the fourth quarter and overtime and finished with 29 points for the Bulls.

Miami center Shaquille O'Neal did not return after straining his left knee in a fall in the opening minutes. X-rays were negative.

After Miami's Eddie Jones forced overtime with a buzzer-beater, Gordon scored the first eight points in the extra period.

Dwyane Wade led Miami with 21 points and 11 assists.

Pacers 108, Magic 84: At Orlando, Fla., Jermaine O'Neal scored 20 points in 22 minutes, and Fred Jones added 18 points in Indiana's third straight victory.



Sacramento Kings' Chris Webber scored 30 points in a 114-104 win over the Atlanta Hawks.

Jamaal Tinsley had 11 points and six assists after missing all but two minutes of the past eight games because of a foot injury.

Jameer Nelson had 15 points for Orlando.

Pistons 97, Knicks 88: At Auburn Hills, Mich., Richard Hamilton and Tayshawn Prince each scored 19 points, leading Detroit to its fifth straight victory and 10th in 11 games.

Chauncey Billups added 15 points and eight assists, and Rashad Wallace had 12 points, eight rebounds and four blocks. Jamal Crawford had 23 points for the Knicks.

Kings 114, Hawks 104: At Sacramento, Calif., Chris Webber scored 20 points, Mike Bibby had 23 and the Kings beat Atlanta for just their second victory in eight games. Brad Miller added 16 points, 14 rebounds and seven assists for the Kings.

At Harrington scored 25 points for Atlanta, which has lost 16 straight road games and five in a row overall.

Lakers 104, Celtics 95: At Los Angeles, Kobe Bryant and Lamar Odom each scored 21 points for Los Angeles, and Chris Mihm had 19 points and 15 rebounds.

Paul Pierce and Ricky Davis each scored 25 points for Boston.

Bucks 112, Bobcats 102: At Charlotte, N.C., Michael Redd scored 39 points on 15-for-24 shooting after missing Milwaukee's previous three games because of a sprained index finger.

Brevin Knight led Charlotte with 19 points.

NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division		W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	49	12	37	.569	—
Lakers	47	14	33	.588	1 1/2
New Jersey	23	42	4	.846	4
Toronto	22	43	5	.837	5
New York	21	43	6	.829	6

Southeast Division

Miami	40	27	—	.597	—
Orlando	28	39	—	.416	12
Charlotte	11	46	—	.238	21 1/2
Atlanta	10	47	—	.213	22 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	33	19	—	.635	—
Chicago	27	25	—	.519	7 1/2
Indiana	27	25	—	.519	7 1/2
Milwaukee	21	31	—	.411	11 1/2

Western Conference

Northwest Division		W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	41	17	—	.706	—
Dallas	35	23	—	.607	6
Houston	32	26	—	.556	11
Memphis	23	35	—	.398	20

Northwest Division

Seattle	35	23	—	.607	—
Minnesota	27	25	—	.519	10 1/2
Portland	21	31	—	.411	15
Utah	19	33	—	.364	19 1/2

Pacific Division

Phoenix	31	27	—	.530	—
Sacramento	30	28	—	.519	1 1/2
L.A. Clippers	23	35	—	.398	17 1/2
Golden State	28	28	—	.500	20

Tuesday's games

Indiana	108	84	—	—	—
Milwaukee	112	102	—	—	—
Detroit	97	88	—	—	—
Toronto	100	82	—	—	—
Atlanta	105	101	—	—	—
L.A. Lakers	104	104	—	—	—

Wednesday's games

Miami	at	Chicago	7-13
Chicago	at	Cleveland	7-13
Memphis	at	Washington	7-13
New Jersey	at	Milwaukee	7-13
Boston	at	New Orleans	7-13
Dallas	at	Utah	7-13
Boston	at	Houston	7-13
Houston	at	San Antonio	7-13
L.A. Clippers	at	Phoenix	7-13
L.A. Lakers	at	Portland	7-13
Atlanta	at	Golden State	7-13

Thursday's games

Philadelphia	at	New York	7-14
Sacramento	at	Dallas	7-14
Minnesota	at	Boston	7-14

Friday's games

Charlotte	at	New Jersey	7-15
Cleveland	at	Indiana	7-15
San Antonio	at	Phoenix	7-15
Washington	at	Chicago	7-15
Boston	at	Utah	7-15
Atlanta	at	Portland	7-15
Atlanta	at	Golden State	7-15

Saturday's games

Charlotte	at	New Jersey	7-16
Cleveland	at	Indiana	7-16
San Antonio	at	Phoenix	7-16
Washington	at	Chicago	7-16
Boston	at	Utah	7-16
Atlanta	at	Portland	7-16
Atlanta	at	Golden State	7-16

Sunday's games

Charlotte	at	New Jersey	7-17
Cleveland	at	Indiana	7-17
San Antonio	at	Phoenix	7-17
Washington	at	Chicago	7-17
Boston	at	Utah	7-17
Atlanta	at	Portland	7-17
Atlanta	at	Golden State	7-17

Tuesday

Indiana	—	Jackson	41	3-6	13	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—

Wednesday

Indiana	—	Jackson	41	3-6	13	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—

Thursday

Indiana	—	Jackson	41	3-6	13	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—

Friday

Indiana	—	Jackson	41	3-6	13	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—

Saturday

Indiana	—	Jackson	41	3-6	13	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—

Sunday

Indiana	—	Jackson	41	3-6	13	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—

Monday

Indiana	—	Jackson	41	3-6	13	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—

Tuesday

Indiana	—	Jackson	41	3-6	13	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
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Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—
Tinsley	48	22	4-8	12	1-1	.500	—

Wednesday

Indiana	—	Jackson	41	3-
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Bonds has a lot to say, just not on steroids

The Associated Press

Barry Bonds was outspoken on a variety of subjects upon arriving at spring training, just not on his involvement in the steroid scandal.

On Tuesday in Scottsdale, Ariz., the San Francisco Giants slugger proclaimed himself weary but ready for his run at Hank Aaron's home run record, called members of the media liars and pointed to problems in the world he considers much more important than steroids — such as alcoholism and drug abuse.

But, in his first remarks since his grand jury testimony was leaked to the San Francisco Chronicle and reported in December, Bonds had nothing to say, citing legal restraints. He did have harsh words, though, for the media and fans still consumed by the circumstances of his record-setting home run binge.

"You guys are like re-running stories," Bonds said to more than 100 reporters in attendance. "This is old stuff. It's like watching 'Sanford and Son.' It's almost comical, basically. . . Are you guys jealous, upset, disappointed, what?"

Bonds has 73 homers, trailing only Hank Aaron (755) and Babe Ruth (714) on the career list. He believes he's coming under more scrutiny because he's closing in on Ruth.

"Because Babe Ruth is one of the greatest baseball players ever, and Babe Ruth ain't black, either," he said. "I'm black. Blacks, we go through a little more. . . I'm not a racist though, but I live in the real world. I'm fine with that."



Barry Bonds dodged any questions about steroids and called the press liars during his news conference at Scottsdale Stadium.

At Lakeland, Fla., reliever Ugueth Urbina arrived at the Detroit Tigers' camp, less than a week after his kidnapping from Venezuela was resorted in Venezuela after five months in captivity.

Urbina didn't speak to reporters upon his arrival, but was expected to Wednesday. He left the Tigers in September to travel to Venezuela following his mother's disappearance.

At Vero Beach, Fla., headhoned Los Angeles Dodgers outfielder Milton Bradley wasted no time asserting that he's the team's center fielder, despite the acquisition of J.D. Drew.

"I'm starting and I'm playing," Bradley said after reporting a day early to Dodgerstown. "My thoughts are, I'm center fielder, and that's where I'm going to be playing."

Bradley moved to right field last season

when the Dodgers traded for Steve Finley for the playoff push, but he was told it was temporary. Manager Jim Tracy is considering making Drew a center fielder to help protect the oft-injured outfielder from going into the corners.

"There is not an opening day center fielder right now," Tracy said. "We're going to see all these guys [including left fielder Jayson Werth] in center field during spring training."

At Tampa, Fla., New York Yankees right fielder Gary Sheffield resumed hitting after three days off because of soreness in his left shoulder, which was operated on during the offseason.

"I felt a little fatigued. I felt weak. So I just cut it back it for the last few days. I hit off the tee for two days straight. I probably rushed it," he said. "The strength is not there yet. The soreness, I don't feel that, the pain that I felt last year, so it's a big difference."

At Tempe, Ariz., AL MVP Vladimir Guerrero took his first swings of spring training, showing his thumb to the media.

The Anaheim Angels slugger, who hurt his right thumb playing winter ball in the Dominican Republic, lined a series of pitches from hitting coach Mickey Hatcher hard to the opposite field.

Manager Mike Scioscia doesn't necessarily condone big league stars playing winter ball, but understands it.

"You know how Vladimir loves to play," the manager said. "But you're risking tens of millions of dollars from an investment standpoint."

At Clearwater, Fla., Placido Polanco isn't happy about being a backup to Chase Utley on the Philadelphia Phillies, and hopes he'll be with another team on open-

ing day.

"It's a situation I can't control," Polanco said before the team's first full-squad workout. "I don't like to be in this situation. I hate to be in this situation, but I have to live with it."

Polanco hit .298 with a career-high 17 homers and 55 RBIs in 126 games, but the Phillies plan to start Utley every day at second base and use Polanco in a reserve role.

At Mesa, Ariz., Aramis Ramirez would like to complete a new contract with the Chicago Cubs before the season begins.

"Hopefully we'll get something done. I haven't heard anything," Ramirez said before the Cubs first full-squad workout. "If we get something done, I hope we get it done in spring training."

Ramirez signed a one-year, \$8.95 million deal earlier this month, avoiding arbitration following his 36-homer, 103-RBI season that included a .318 batting average. But he would like a multiyear deal from the Cubs.

At Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Baltimore Orioles reliever Jorge Julio has been sidelined with a strained right forearm, an injury that could force him to miss the regular-season opener and definitely hinders his chances of winning the closer's job out of spring training.

Julio has inflammation of the flexor muscle and will be placed on a rehabilitative throwing program the next three weeks. The Orioles hope to have the right-hander back on the mound in the middle of their exhibition schedule, although there are no guarantees.

"I want to get him back, but there's still a fair chance at this point that he could be ready for opening day," Orioles executive vice president Jim Beattie said.

With different ground rules, no double talk

Jim Litke



what? I never — truthfully — I never really paid any attention to it, nor did I really care because I worried about me."

Apparently, Bonds just assumed all those teammates and opponents whose physiques blew up until they resembled inflatable dolls were spending just as much time in the weight room as he was.

And further, that all of them had pals like Anderson always at the ready, with a remedy for whatever ailed them. Viewed that way, the superizing of baseball looks no more suspicious than what happens in a class at Jenny Craig, only in reverse.

Except almost nobody is buying it. Even those fans Bonds said have finally warmed up to him.

"I have probably gotten the best relationship with fans through all of this," he recalled, "than I ever have in my entire career. . . coming over to me — the things that I've always wanted, to come over to me and just shake my hand and say, 'You know what? Who cares. You're a good ballplayer. You proved it. You know, you've done this, you've done that. We're all supporting you!'"

"I've never heard that before," Bonds said. Funny he'd say that, since just about every other disgraced ballplayer has heard it at one time or another.

Keith Hernandez was cheered when he returned to the ballpark after being involved in a cocaine scandal that plagued the game in the 1970s. Pete Rose got the loudest ovation at the All-Star game a few years back, despite being drug-tested out of baseball for gambling on his own team. Wil Cordero was accused of beating his first wife, pleaded guilty to assaulting his second and, because he knows how to

"I never really paid any attention to it, nor did I really care because I worried about me."

Barry Bonds
Major league player

hit a baseball, too, had little trouble finding jobs in several towns with "supportive" fans. As recently as Monday, Jason Giambi was usually the center of the Kansas.com.com Tampa, Fla., despite telling the BALCO grand jury tales about injecting steroids into his own butt.

But the hometown fans cheering for all those players didn't believe they had been wronged, just unappreciated. No one seriously doubts Bonds' immense talent, work ethic, or even his dedication, just his contention that the sum of those parts is all that went into the whole.

"If that's the case, we're going to go back into 19th, 18th centuries in rehabilitating the past and we'll crush a lot of things in a lot of sports if that's what you guys want," Bonds said. "If you want a lot of things out of the sports world, then we can go back into the 1800s and basically asterisk a lot of sports if that's what you choose and that's what you want to do."

He's right, of course. Blacks and Latinos were excluded from the major leagues when Babe Ruth set his home run mark, and rumors of widespread use of amphetamines — known as "greenies" — were around when Henry Aaron set his.

And so the crucial difference might be that it is much tougher to look away at the moment than to look back — no matter how much or how often Bonds comes back.

Jim Litke is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at: jlitke@ap.org

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Federer survives test from qualifier

The Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Top-ranked Roger Federer escaped with a 6-7 (5), 6-3, 7-6 (5) victory over qualifier Ivo Minar of the Czech Republic in the Dubai Open on Wednesday.

Sports briefs

"He played really well, well put me under pressure," said Federer, trying to win his third consecutive Dubai Open title. Also advancing were fourth seed Andre Agassi, No. 5 Tommy Robredo of Spain, No. 6 Nikolay Davydenko of Russia, and No. 8 Ivan Ljubicic of Croatia.

Minar often left Federer stranded from the back of the court and deft touches at the net.

The match went with service until the 17th game, when Minar's first serve deserted him and Federer broke the Czech on route to winning the second set.

The players traded breaks twice each in the third set, forcing a tiebreaker that Federer clinched despite double-faulting, wasting a match point with a wild smash.

"I couldn't play as aggressive enough as I would have liked to," Federer said. "So I had to try to do is keep the points short. But it was very tough today."

Agassi faced no such problems, swamping last year's finalist Feliciano Lopez of Spain, 6-3, to cruise into the quarterfinals.

"I felt it could have turned into a difficult match," Agassi said.

"There's no question that if you let Feliciano play on his terms, he becomes quite effective. So tonight I really had to execute my shots and make sure I stayed in control."

Martinez upsets Myskina

DOHA, Qatar — Unseeded Conchita Martinez of Spain continued her dream run Wednesday by upsetting defending champion Anastasia Myskina of Russia in the Qatar Open.

Martinez, 32, beat the two-time Qatar Open champion, 7-5, to set up a quarterfinal match Thursday against Slovakia's Daniela Hantuchova, who defeated sixth-seeded Elena Bovina of Russia, 6-1, 6-3, 6-3.

Earlier Wednesday, second-seeded Maria Sharapova of Russia eased past Gisela Dulko of Argentina 6-1, 6-1 in 74 minutes to reach the quarterfinals.

Injury ends senior season of Marquette star Diener

MILWAUKEE — Travis Diener's college career is over thanks to a broken hand, leaving him 83 points shy of surpassing George Thompson as Marquette's career leading scorer.

Diener, a Cooney Award finalist as the nation's top point guard, broke his left hand Tuesday. He underwent surgery Tuesday

World No. 1 Roger Federer, above, rallied to beat Ivo Minar of the Czech Republic 6-7 (5), 6-3, 7-6 (5) on Wednesday in Dubai.

night, ending his senior season just as the Golden Eagles (18-8, 6-7 Conference USA) are pushing to make the NCAA tournament.

Diener leads Conference USA with averages of 19.7 points and seven assists, and is the only player in the country to lead a major conference in both categories.

NASCAR to broadcast on Sirius Satellite Radio

NEW YORK — In the latest push to ramp up its programming sale, Sirius Satellite Radio Inc. reached an agreement to broadcast NASCAR races and related events over a five-year period for \$107.5 million, luring the broadcast rights away from rival XM Satellite Radio Holdings Inc.

"This deal, announced Tuesday, calls for Sirius to become the exclusive satellite radio partner for NASCAR. The agreement was a coup for Sirius, the smaller of the two satellite radio providers."

Both Sirius and XM have been committing large sums of money to lock in programming as part of their drive to build up their businesses and attract customers.

Sirius also has an NFL channel and a deal with College Sports Television, which enables Sirius to air the games of 23 major-college teams — including Southern California, Notre Dame and LSU. The company also signed a deal in November to air the men's NCAA tournament through 2007.

Boxer Spadafora sentenced to five years for shooting

PITTSBURGH — Former IBF lightweight champion Paul Spadafora was sentenced to up to five years in state prison for shooting his girlfriend 16 months ago, but he could get out in six months if he completes a boot-camp program.

The sentencing closes the most serious chapter of a long-term hot-or-fueled run-ins for Spadafora, and the relatively lenient sentence could enable him to resume his career.

Spadafora pleaded guilty to aggravated assault and a weapons violation in December for shooting Nadine Russo in the abdomen on Oct. 26, 2003, because he was upset she had flattened two tires on his sport utility vehicle. The couple has since become engaged and had a child, Geno.

Spadafora's promoter, Michael Aciri, said there are no plans for Spadafora to fight again.

"Really, it's about alcohol abuse, it's not about career plans at this point," Aciri said.

Deluge delays Match Play

World Golf Championship event to start on Thursday

By DOUG FERGUSON
The Associated Press

CARLSBAD, Calif. — Hours after the announcement that the Match Play Championship would not begin until Thursday because of the saturated course at La Costa, one match already was in the books.

Padraig Harrington outlasted Darren Clarke on the practice range.

Leave it to a pair of Irishmen to ignore the cold rain that fell Tuesday afternoon, after every one else had left the course and creeks again spilled over the banks and across the fairway.

Clarke hit chips around the green as swing coach Butch Harmon watched from under an umbrella. The 2000 Match Play championship finally left, pausing only to light a cigar.

Harmon, who arrived Monday from playing in Malaysia, tossed a dozen balls in the muck of a bunker and began blasting out, spraying mud on his pants.

He was returned to the clubhouse, asked for his 5-iron and continued to beat balls in the gloaming.

The third shot was as pure as it gets.

"I should play in the rain more often," Harrington said.

That can be arranged. Just move to California.

The final two legs of the West Coast Swing have turned into the "Wet" Coast Swing. First came rain at Riviera, leading to the first 36-hole event on the PGA Tour in 1997. Then came rain at the Nissan Open in a playoff Monday. One day later, Wednesday's start of the Accenture Match Play Championship was pushed back one day.

PGA Tour tournament director Mark Russell said La Costa would be available for practice rounds Wednesday, but the staff did not think the course was suitable for competition.

"It's totally saturated," Russell said. "But based on this weather forecast, it's going to get nothing but better. If we get a day of sunshine and breeze, it will get dramatically better, and we're going to present a better golf course for the players."

That means a full day of golf

Match Play Championship

At La Costa Resort and Spa, Carlsbad, Calif.

Thursday's first-round matches (Seedings in parentheses)

Bobby Jones bracket

Vijay Singh (1) vs. Shingo Katayama (16)

Jonathan Kaye (8) vs. Jeff Haden (15)

Chris DiMarco (4) vs. Tim Herron (12)

Dustin Johnson (5) vs. John Daly (3)

Stewart Cink (2) vs. Fred Funk (15)

Chad Chik (7) vs. Tom Lehman (14)

Dave Love (3) vs. Chris Riley (14)

Lee Westwood (6) vs. Steve Flesch (11)

Ray Baker bracket

Retief Goosen (1) vs. Stephen Leach (16)

Peter Lonard (8) vs. Fred Couples (9)

Mike Angel Jimenez (4) vs. Rod Pampling (12)

Luca D'Amico (5) vs. Fredrik Jacobson (12)

Mike Weir (2) vs. Kirk Triplett (15)

Tim Clark (7) vs. Craig Parry (16)

Darren Clarke (3) vs. Graeme McDowell (14)

Tom Hamilton (6) vs. Robert Alcock (11)

Wayne Black bracket

Tiger Woods (1) vs. Nick Price (16)

Chris O'Hara (8) vs. Charles Howell III (9)

Kenny Perry (4) vs. Thomas Levet (12)

Luke Donald (5) vs. Zach Johnson (12)

Padraig Harrington (2) vs. Jeff Maggert (15)

Chris DiMarco (5) vs. Rory Sabbatini (12)

Stuart Appleby (3) vs. Joakim Haeggberg (14)

Jim Furyk (6) vs. Ian Poulter (11)

Sam Snead bracket

Phil Mickelson (1) vs. Loren Roberts (16)

Samuel L. Davis (8) vs. Pádraig Harrington (9)

Davis Love (4) vs. Richard Green (12)

Seamus Power (5) vs. Mark Hensby (12)

Sergio Garcia (2) vs. Alex Colpa (15)

Scott Verplank (7) vs. Jerry Kelly (14)

Adam Scott (3) vs. Trevor Immelman (14)

Shigeki Miyazawa (6) vs. David Howell (11)

will be washed out for the second time in as many weeks on tour, and the second time in as many years at La Costa.

The second round was postponed a week, leading to two rounds Friday and Saturday, followed by the 36-hole final on Sunday. Tiger Woods won last year, defeating Davis Love III, for his second straight title at the finals.

"If you get all the way to the finals, it's a physical grind," Woods said Tuesday morning, before the announcement that the first round would have been delayed. "Match play is an emotional roller coaster, because of the momentum switches that can happen in one hole, two holes."

Unlike the NCAA basketball tournament, there is no such thing as an upset at La Costa.

Last year was the first time in the six-year history of this World Golf Championship event that two of the top-four seeds made it to the last match.

Jeff Maggert won the first year as the No. 24 seed, followed by Tiger Woods, No. 19, and then Phil Mickelson, No. 55, and Kevin Sutherland (No. 62). Woods won the past two years as the top seed, although he starts this time as No. 2.

Vijay Singh is the No. 1 seed and will play Shingo Katayama of Japan.

"He's a good player. I don't know how he's playing coming into this event, but I have to treat him very strong," Singh said. "I'm going to go out and see if I can play my game and play the best I can and see if I can finish it off." Singh is coming off a year's first missed cut in as many as, as defending champion at Pebble Beach. No one misses the cut from the 64-man field at La Costa, although this event has not been kind to the 41-year-old Fijian. He has never advanced out of the second round, even against a watered-down field in Australia four years ago.

While most players like the idea of match play during a full schedule of stroke play, Singh was indifferent.

"I don't mind it," he said. "I think it depends on how you play. Last year, I didn't play very well. I'm driving the ball much better than I did last year, and I've fixed my irons."

Ernie Els, ranked third in the world, is the only player who elected not to come.

Phil Mickelson lives about 20 miles away in Rancho Santa Fe, where he's been in the area for two weeks in the Nissan Open. He played a couple of practice rounds at La Costa. The No. 3 seed, "Lefty" is coming off a once-to-back wins on the PGA Tour by wide margins, although that won't be his first any good this week.

He shot 73 in the first round at Phoenix, then rebounded with career-low 60. Had that been match play, Mickelson probably wouldn't have advanced out of the first round. A week later, he opened with a course-record 62 at Spyglass, closed with a 73 and still won by four shots.

"I would have been knocked out the first round half the time," Phoenix's Mickelson said. "And at AT&T, I would have done great all the way through and the last match have been knocked out. In match play ... you need some luck to win, but you can't win if you're not going to play well six rounds in a row."

Right now, all they want to do is play.

NHL participation cleared for Worlds

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The NHL will allow league personnel to take part in the world hockey championships this spring even if the lockdown that canceled the season continues.

"After due consideration of all of the relevant and sometimes competing concerns, we have decided that NHL management personnel (including NHL head and general managers) will be entirely free to participate in the upcoming IIHF World Championships in the same manner and in the

same or similar capacities as in prior years," NHL chief legal officer Bill Daly said Tuesday in a statement.

That leaves the door open for Wayne Gretzky to lead Team Canada in the tournament that starts April 30 and ends May 15. Gretzky, a Phoenix Coyote's general manager, was the executive director of the two-time defending champions.

It is expected that most NHL players will take part in the tournament that will be held in Austria.

Usually, a handful of players join their national teams once

their teams are eliminated from the playoffs. But now that many have missed a season due to the lockdown, they probably will be looking to play in competitive games.

With the cancellation of the season last week, and a failed last-ditch effort to resurrect it, the NHL and the players' association will break from talks between the NHL and the players' association.

The league will hold a meeting with the board of governors in New York Tuesday. The players' association will gather its rank-and-file members for a meeting Tuesday in Toronto.

5-time defending champ Heidelberg shocked

Lions lose twice on first day of tournament, fall out of contention

BY RUSTY BRYAN

Stars and Stripes

MANNHEIM, Germany — After six years, there will be a new boys Division I basketball champion.

The Heidelberg Lions, who have won the past five European Division 1 titles, fell to fifth-seeded Würzburg 44-43 and fourth-seeded Kaiserslautern 45-32 on Wednesday's first day of play and fell out of title contention.

"We tried to do something that they weren't used to," said Kaiserslautern coach Clinton Robinson after his Red Raiders frustrated Heidelberg with a stall that consumed the final 2:55 of the first quarter and most of the second quarter.

K-town, which led 7-4 after the opening quarter, attempted only one field goal in the second quarter, a three-pointer by Quentin Strawder, but still outscored the Lions 7-6 in the period. The Red Raiders then put the game away with a 14-8 run over the first 5:50 of the third quarter, largely on the scoring of Jamal Aneke.

Aneke had a game-high 14 points, all in the second half.

Clinton Robinson III, the coach's son, put the final nail in the Lions' coffin, dropping in a long three that made the score 35-27 with 2:25 left.

"We've been waiting for this for a long time," said Aneke.

The game was a must-win for each team after each had lost to surprising Würzburg earlier in the day.

Würzburg's Justin Jennings hit the game-winning free throw in the victory over Heidelberg, a shot in the final 10 seconds that gave the Wolves their first lead of the day.

"We kept our composure and fought back," said Würzburg coach Allen Archie, whose team earned a spot in Thursday's semifinals.



RUSTY BRYAN/Stars and Stripes

Alcunbury's Nikita Webb (14) drives to the basket around teammate Katie Schoner, foreground, and Iceland's Tierra Lewis (23) on Wednesday during the Lady Dragons' 44-12 Division IV win.

The Wolves had earlier defeated K-town 54-51, again taking control late in the game. Würzburg's Jonathan Ort scored 15 points against Heidelberg and 14 against K-town. Soo Soo Taullele scored a game-high 16 against K-town.

Next up for the Wolves is a 6:30 p.m. semifinal Thursday against the runner-up among Ramstein, Wiesbaden, International School of Brussels and Lakenheath; K-town will take on the champion of that pool. The title game is scheduled for 8 p.m. Friday.

For all its success on Wednesday, Würzburg isn't taking anything for granted.

"We've got a lot of tournament left," Archie said.

The girls' Division I tournament produced nothing like the drama of the boys' event, with Heidelberg's 31-24 upset of defending D-I champion Lakenheath topping the list.

In the other tournaments, the Naples and Aviano boys and girls went unbeaten in early play; as did Hanau, Mannheim and Vilsack. There were no Division III games Wednesday, and the Alcunbury and Brussels boys and girls went unbeaten early in Division IV.

Play resumes at 9 a.m. Thursday. E-mail Rusty Bryan at: bryan@mail.strips.com

European basketball championships

MANNHEIM, Germany — First-day pool-play results Wednesday from the European Division I, II, III and IV high school basketball tournaments which end Saturday:

Boys

Wednesday's results

Würzburg 54, Kaiserslautern 51
Würzburg 44, Heidelberg 43
Ramstein 53, Wiesbaden 47
International School of Brussels 45, Lakenheath 44
Wiesbaden 60, ISB 51
Kaiserslautern 45, Heidelberg 32

Division II

Naples 69, AFNORTH 46
Vilsack 41, Billburg 40 (OT)
Aviano 59, SHAPE 54
Black Forest Academy 62, Patch 40
Mannheim 55, SHAPE 39
Hanau 50, AFNORTH 10
Aviano vs. Patch, late
Mannheim vs. BFA, late
Hanau vs. Billburg, late

Division III

No games scheduled

Division IV

Menwith Hill 51, Livorno 44
Brussels 49, Iceland 34
Alcunbury 42, Ankara 41
Iceland 41, Milan 17
Brussels 40, Menwith Hill 26
Iceland 40, Livorno 40
Iceland vs. Alcunbury, late
Ankara vs. Milan, late

Girls

Ramstein 42, ISB 37
Heidelberg 23, Lakenheath 24
Würzburg 38, Wiesbaden 35
Lakenheath 30, ISB 27
Lakenheath 33, Würzburg 15
Heidelberg vs. Wiesbaden, late
Kaiserslautern vs. Ramstein, late

Division II

Naples 43, Black Forest Academy 26
AFNORTH 32, Patch 29
Vilsack 41, SHAPE 29
Aviano 33, Billburg 29
Hanau 44, SHAPE 39
Mannheim 55, BFA 20
Mannheim vs. Patch, late
Hanau vs. Aviano, late

Division III

No games scheduled

Division IV

Alcunbury 55, Aviano 14
Iceland 33, Iceland 30 (2OT)
Ankara 41, Ankara 14
Brussels 35, Iceland 12
Iceland 12, Ankara 12
Iceland vs. Milan, late
Brussels vs. Menwith Hill, late
Ankara vs. Lajes, late

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BY JON SOLOMON
The State (Columbia, S.C.)

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Forget the turn, fear the Tiger.
More specifically, fear Sharrod Ford.

Clemson never trailed in a 97-93 victory over Maryland on Tuesday night before 17,950 at Comcast Center.

In another dominating performance against his home-state school, Ford scored 24 points and just missed a triple double to help Oliver Purnell, another Maryland native, lead the Tigers to their first sweep of Maryland since 1996-97.

Ford, a native of Suitland, Md., scored 17 of his points after half-time and finished with 10 rebounds and a career-high nine blocks.

"I always dreamed of going to a hometown school," said Ford, who made seven of eight shots after halftime. "But since I couldn't, I guess I had to dream about beating one."

In Clemson's 88-73 victory against Maryland on Feb. 1, Ford tied a career high with 25 points and grabbed 10 rebounds. Until this month, Maryland had won 13 consecutive games against Clemson, which was the second-longest active winning streak against one opponent in the ACC.

Clemson shot 58.2 percent, including 62.5 percent in the second half, in Tuesday's victory against the defending ACC tournament champion. The Tigers made eight of 12 three-pointers.

The Tigers' point total was the school's highest on the road in an ACC game that did not go into overtime.

"You could see the look in their eyes that they knew they were going to win, confident they were going to win," Purnell said. "They could answer any challenge. I was just real proud of them tonight, particularly coming off a 32-point loss at North Carolina on Saturday."

There were some anxious moments. Clemson's 11-point lead with 3 minutes left was whittled to four when Maryland's Travis Garrison made two free throws with 1:44 remaining.

Cheyenne Moore and Olu Babalola then made four consecutive free throws for the Tigers, who converted 11 of 18 foul shots in the final 3:09.

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Clemson pulls off sweep of Maryland



Quarterback Drew Bledsoe was released by Buffalo on Tuesday and almost immediately agreed to join former coach Bill Parcells in Dallas.

QB Bledsoe headed for reunion in Dallas

The Associated Press

IRVING, Texas — Drew Bledsoe was released by the Buffalo Bills on Tuesday and within hours, according to several reports, agreed to a deal with the Dallas Cowboys.

Bledsoe's reunion with coach Bill Parcells, who drafted the quarterback No. 1 overall and guided him to the Super Bowl in New England, was first reported by Dallas-Fort Worth television station KTVT and later by ESPN.com. The Dallas Morning News and the Fort Worth Star-Telegram All cited sources.

Bledsoe, agent David Dunn and Cowboys owner Jerry Jones did not immediately return phone calls to The Associated Press.

The Bills announced plans to release him last week, and the Cowboys were prepared with an offer right away. Bledsoe was ready for it, too, even saying last week that "Dallas is intriguing for obvious reasons."

"Playing for my old coach and then looking at the weapons they have offensively, that's intriguing," Bledsoe said in a conference call with reporters. "But there are a number of teams that are possibilities, and Dallas is one of those."

Bledsoe also indicated that he'd rather retire than not be a starter, so there's little doubt he'll be taking over the Dallas offense, especially considering Parcells' affinity for his former players. Among his receivers will be receiver Terry Glenn, who caught passes from Bledsoe from 1996-2001 in New England.

The Cowboys have said all along they wanted to go with a veteran quarterback rather than turn to one of their youngsters, Drew Henson or Tony Romo. Henson threw 18 passes as a rookie and Romo has never thrown a pass in his two NFL seasons. Bledsoe's arrival also means that Vinny Testaverde won't return.

Although Bledsoe is eight years younger than Testaverde, he's

still considered on the downside of his career.

His statistics last season in guiding Buffalo to a 9-7 record were comparable to what Testaverde did in Dallas' 6-10 season.

Bledsoe had 20 touchdowns and 16 interceptions, while Testaverde had 17 touchdowns and 20 interceptions. The Bills went into the final Sunday of the season with a chance to make the playoffs after an 0-4 start.

A record-setting passer in his youth with Parcells, Bledsoe has thrown for more than 300 yards only once in the past two seasons.

He made the Pro Bowl the year before that, his first with Buffalo after losing his job in New England to Tom Brady. He was 23-25 in three seasons with the Bills, never reaching the postseason.

Bledsoe said that after the Bills told him they were releasing him and turning the job over to last season's top pick, J.P. Losman, he spent about half a day "trying to figure out if I had the energy to get after it again."

"But then I started to look at some of the opportunities out there and some of the teams where I could possibly go to, I really started to get excited about it," he said. "I have an absolute love for this game, I have a passion for it. ... I have excitement now to see what the next thing is. I'm looking forward to it."

In Dallas, Bledsoe will face a fan base still yearning for someone to carry on the tradition of Roger Staubach and Troy Aikman.

Bledsoe will be the eighth starting quarterback the Cowboys have used since Aikman. The franchise also has just one postseason victory since its last Super Bowl championship, which came after the 1995 season.

But there will be some solid players around Bledsoe, primarily running back Julius Jones and tight end Jason Witten. The receiving corps will include Glenn, who was hurt most of last season, and Keyshawn Johnson.

Seahawks sign Hasselbeck; Alexander, James franchised

The Associated Press

The Seattle Seahawks made sure Matt Hasselbeck will be their starting quarterback for a few more years, and designated running back Shaun Alexander as their franchise player on a busy day in the NFL.

Adam Vinatieri, Edgerrin James and Charles Woodson were also among a handful of players who received the franchise tag by their teams Tuesday.

By designating potential free agents as franchise players, teams have the opportunity to retain them for next season. Under the designation, a team is required to offer the player a one-year contract equal to the average of the top five salaries at his position last season, or give him a 20 percent raise, whichever is greater.

Cleveland released quarterback Jeff Garcia, formally ending a one-year relationship that seemed doomed from the outset. There was no fanfare as the club chose not to release a statement or give a reason for cutting ties with Garcia.

Although free agency officially begins March 2, much high-priced dealing already has taken place. Seattle has made the biggest moves, ensuring that three of its top offensive players stayed in town.

Last week, the Seahawks signed left tackle Walter Jones to a seven-year, \$52.5 million deal. Hasselbeck, who was sure to be on of the top players on the free-agent market, got a deal for \$49.4 for six years — including a \$16 million signing bonus.

"We weren't going to let Matt go," Seahawks CEO Tod Leiweke said. "This guy had to come back for us to be effective."

The Seahawks also ensured that they can keep Alexander — or get two first-round picks for him. Alexander, who finished a yard behind the Jets' Curtis Martin in the NFL rushing race, is guaranteed \$6.3 million although the Seahawks said they will be working on a long-term deal.

All this occurred in the midst of a front-office shakeup — general manager Bob Ferguson announced his resignation Tuesday.

Vinatieri, whose last-minute field goals won the Super Bowl in 2001 and 2002, was designated the Patriots' franchise player for the second time. He got the same tag in 2002, then signed a three-year deal which is about to expire.

The Patriots are expected to renegotiate a new contract before the deadline on March 16 to re-sign players with the franchise designation.

Indianapolis made James its non-exclusive franchise player — it wasn't clear whether the Colts would keep him protected or try to work a long-term deal.

The running back was tendered a one-year contract for a little more than \$8 million, but he could offer his services to another team. The Colts could match that offer or let him go and get two first-round picks in return.

"We decided the best thing to do would be to put the non-exclusive tag on him," Colts President Bill Polian said. "It allows us to retain our rights going forward and it allows us to try to work something out."

Woodson, a four-time Pro Bowl cornerback, was made Oakland's franchise player for the second straight year.

The Raiders also re-signed receiver Jerry Porter,



Edgerrin James was designated the Colts' franchise player on Tuesday, but the team didn't indicate whether that was to keep him or trade him.

giving him a multiyear deal. Terms of the contract weren't released for Porter, who led the Raiders with 64 catches for 998 yards and nine touchdowns.

"I'm happy to return to the Raiders and ready to get started on a new football season," Porter said in a statement released by the team.

Meanwhile, Jacksonville franchised safety Donovan Darius for the third straight season, and San Francisco made linebacker Julian Peterson its franchise player for the second year in a row.

Pittsburgh failed to designate wide receiver Plaxico Burress as its franchise player, all but assuring he will become a free agent.

He had at least 60 catches for three years in a row before being slowed by a hamstring injury last season, when his 35 catches were his fewest since he made 22 as a rookie in 2000.

Dallas cut defensive end Marcus Wilkley just one season after he was the Cowboys' top free-agent signee. He had just three sacks and often was benched in obvious passing situations.

San Diego released receiver-returner Tim Dwight after four injury-marred seasons. Baltimore let go of veteran wide receiver Kevin Johnson and Kansas City cut ties with defensive end Ronnie Holliday.

Carolina gave a new deal to Rod Smart, who first gained attention in the one-year NFL by wearing "He Hate Me" on the back of his uniform. He has played primarily on special teams as a kick returner and missed most of last season with a knee injury.

Former Pro Bowl punter Roby dead at 43

The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Former punter Reggie Roby, a 16-year NFL veteran and three-time Pro Bowl selection, died Tuesday after being found unconscious at home by his wife. He was 43.

Missouri Roby found her husband with no pulse. Paramedics tried to resuscitate him at home and in the ambulance, but he was

pronounced dead in the emergency room at St. Thomas Hospital, according to a statement released by the family.

The cause of death is unknown, the statement said.

Roby was a sixth-round pick in 1983 out of Iowa by the Miami Dolphins, where he played from 1983-92. He also played for the Washington Redskins, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Houston/Ten-

nessee Oilers and San Francisco 49ers, where he wrapped up his career with a final season in 1999.

He led the AFC in 1991 with an average punt of 45.7 yards, and he still holds the Pro Bowl record with 10 punts in the 1985 game.

"He was an outstanding punter for us and his booming kicks often helped us win the field position battle," Don Shula, who coached Roby, said in a statement released by the Dolphins.

Sub Scott helps lift Tar Heels over Wolfpack

The Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — All Melvin Scott needed was a chance.

Stuck on the bench lately in a horrid shooting slump, the senior guard replaced the ill Rashad McCants in the starting lineup and scored 12 points in No. 2 North Carolina's 81-71 victory over North Carolina State on Tuesday night.

Raymond Felton had 21 points, seven assists and five rebounds



Men's Top 25 Roundup

for the Tar Heels (23-3, 11-2), who extended their lead in the Atlantic Coast Conference to a game over No. 6 Wake Forest.

Jawad Williams added 15 points for North Carolina and Sean May and freshman Marvin Williams each scored 14. McCants didn't even make the

25-mile trip because of an intestinal disorder, giving Scott his second start of the year. He had scored only 10 points in his previous four games and was 0-for-8 from three-point range in that span.

That wasn't a problem against the Wolfpack (15-11, 5-8).

Scott finished 4-for-8 on threes, including two on each side of half-time to give North Carolina a commanding lead. Perhaps inspired by his performance, Scott's team-

mates also found the range from beyond the arc, finishing 10-for-21.

LSU 61, No. 16 Alabama 59: At Baton Rouge, La., Ross Nettler's tip-in at the buzzer gave the Tigers the victory and denied the Crimson Tide the chance to clinch the SEC West.

The loss snapped a four-game winning streak for Alabama (21-5, 10-3 SEC).

The Tigers (16-9, 9-4) improved to 13-1 at home.

Huskies: Win is timely for Collier

HUSKERS, FROM BACK PAGE

The Huskers (12-12, 5-8) used a 12-0 run in a 32-32 halftime tie to break the game open.

Nebraska's biggest victory in Collier's five years came on the same day a columnist for the *Omaha World-Herald*, the state's largest newspaper, called for his firing.

"We don't pay a lot of attention to that," Collier said.

Sutton said he's well aware of the heat Collier has been taking and that if he had to lose to one team in the Big 12, he's glad it was Nebraska.

"They've had a tough season, and they are a better ballclub than their record would indicate," Sutton said. "Barry is a very, very good coach. I hope these people get off his case and start showing him some appreciation."

After the buzzer, students from both ends stormed the court. Collier and his players then waved their hands in the air as if they were directing the pep band in a rendition of "There Is No Place Like Nebraska."

The players wound their way through a gauntlet of students, high-fiving them as they headed to the locker room.

John Lucas led Oklahoma State with 20 points. Joey Graham, the Big 12's second-leading scorer, was held to 12 before fouling out in the final minute.

"We wanted to try to play special attention to Joey Graham, who we think is an NBA first-rounder for sure and probably a lottery pick," Collier said. "He had his way with us last year. We also had to keep John Lucas under wraps."

Freshman James On Curry, averaging 14.3 points since joining the Cowboys' starting lineup seven games ago, was held to seven points, two in the second half.

The Huskers used the 12-0 run to go ahead 44-32. Maric scored twice in a row before John Turek highlighted the spurt with a big dunk off a pass from Jake Muhleisen.

Oklahoma State didn't score for the opening 6:16 of the second half until Graham bulled his way in for a layup.

After Terrence Crawford got the Cowboys within 44-36, McCray hit a three-pointer and Corey Simms hit a jumper for the Huskers' biggest lead, 49-36.

Nebraska played to the half-time tie despite going 16-5 without a field goal. The Huskers capitalized on 12 turnovers in the first half, converting them into 17 points.

Two thirds by Lucas and another by Daniel Bobek keyed a 13-0 run that gave the Cowboys an 18-7 lead.

"It was right there, and we didn't seize the moment," Lucas said. "That's what it boiled down to. We didn't come out hungry. They stepped up, and they didn't play hard."



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SPORTS

Huskers drop No. 4 Cowboys

Nebraska victory knocks Okla. State into Big 12 tie

BY ERIC OLSON
The Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Oklahoma State coach Eddie Sutton had no difficulty assessing his fourth-ranked Cowboys' performance in a 74-67 loss to Nebraska on Tuesday night.

"I told the squad this ranks as one of the 10 worst performances of any team I've had that's any good," Sutton said.

"It was just a bad game, and it came at a bad time."

Not only did the loss drop the Cowboys into a tie with No. 8 Kansas atop the Big 12 standings, it could damage their hopes of a No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament. Oklahoma State is at Kansas on Sunday.

Joe McCray scored 17 of his 22 points in the second half and Alekx Maric added a career-high

15 to lead Nebraska to its first win over a Top Five opponent since a 98-91 victory over No. 3 Missouri in the 1994 Big Eight tournament. It was Nebraska's first win in 20 games against Top 10 opponents.

"We needed a great, great effort to have a chance to win," Nebraska coach Barry Collier said. "Our guys believed they could do that, and four or five minutes at a time we came at them."

Oklahoma State, which averaged 82 points in winning its last six games by an average of 15, was held under 70 points for only the fourth time this season.

The Cowboys (20-4, 10-3 Big 12) turned in a sloppy effort that saw them commit 19 turnovers and go eight straight possessions without scoring to start the second half.

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Nebraska's Jake Muhleisen (12) works his way through the crowd that stormed the court after Nebraska beat Oklahoma State 74-67 in Lincoln, Neb., on Tuesday. It was the Cornhuskers' first victory over an opponent ranked in the Top Five since the 1994 Big Eight tournament.

**Stunning
development
on first day
of European
basketball
championships**

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**Alexander, James,
Vinatieri given
franchise tag**

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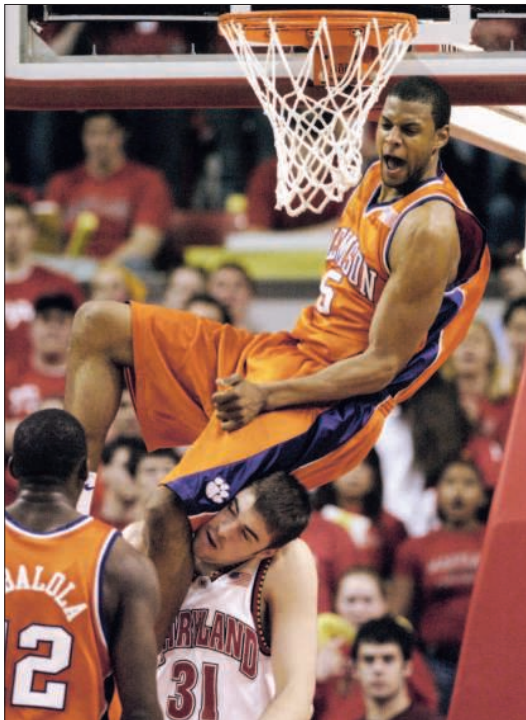
**Bonds reports
to spring training
with much to say
to media —
except about
steroids**

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**Bledsoe reportedly agrees to deal
with Cowboys hours after being
released by Bills, Page 46**

Tigers on top of Terps again



Clemson's Sharron Ford (5) lands on Maryland's Will Bowers (31) after a dunk during Clemson's 97-93 victory Tuesday in College Park, Md. Clemson's Olu Babalola (12) is at left. Ford had 24 points and 10 rebounds as Clemson swept Maryland for the first time since 1996-97. See story on Page 45.

Match Play latest delay on 'Wet' Coast Swing Page 44

